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MINUTES

OF THE

ANNUAL AND GENERAL CONFERENCES

OF THE CHURCH OF THE

UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST

1800-1818

TRANSLATED AND EDITED BY

A. W. DRURY, D.D.

DAYTON, OHIO
PUBLISHED FOR THE UNITED BRETHREN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BY THE UNITED BRETHREN PUBLISHING HOUSE
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PREFACE.

THE United Brethren Church may congratulate itself on the preservation, notwithstanding the absence till recently of direct plan and effort in that direction, of the minutes almost entire of all of the early conferences. The first and only notice that we have of the conferences of 1789 and 1791 is what was inserted in the historical sketch in the Discipline published in 1819. The only gap in the conference minutes prior to 1837 is the absence of the minutes of the first four sessions of Scioto Conference (from 1825 to 1828).

It seems proper to speak of the conference regularly organized in the year 1800 as the "Original Conference" for the period down to 1810, when the Miami Conference was formed, and then for the period following to designate it the "Eastern Conference," which designation continues best to describe it till the division of the conference in 1830.

The minutes of the conference first formed, though meager, are preserved unbroken down to and including the minutes of 1830. They are in German, and are recorded in a substantial record-book. The same book also contains in English the minutes of Virginia Conference from 1831 to 1837 inclusive.

The first Miami Conference record-book contains the minutes in the German language from 1810 to 1831 inclusive. On pages facing the German text, for a number of the sessions, there is a more or less full account in English of the transactions of the conference. For the sessions of 1826 and 1827, while the English record is complete, the German record is almost wholly wanting.

The first Muskingum Conference record extends over the years from 1818 to 1845 inclusive. The minutes are in German, with the exception of those for the years 1838, 1839, and 1842 to 1845. Muskingum Conference had special importance in that, while losing its territory in Pennsylvania after 1833, it became the conference through which the Church was planted in all eastern and northern Ohio, and, through the Sandusky Conference, in large measure, in Michigan also.

The minutes of the first two General Conference sessions are recorded in German in the record-book of the Eastern Conference.

The minutes for the sessions of 1821, 1825, 1829, and 1833, in German manuscript, are preserved among the archives of the Historical Society. The minutes for the session of 1821 are also recorded in the record-book of Miami Conference. The minutes for the sessions of 1837, 1841, and 1845 seem not to have been preserved otherwise than as published at the time in the *Religious Telescope*. About 1850 Joshua Montgomery, the secretary of the General Conference for the session of 1849 and for other sessions, made a complete record in English, from whatever sources available, of the proceedings of all previous General Conferences, except the first two, transcribing also into the record as a preliminary basis the essential parts of the first English Discipline, that published in 1819.

The correspondence with the Methodist Episcopal Church is valuable as showing the fraternal spirit existing, but more especially in showing the progress in organization and in the establishment of discipline. In 1809 the prejudice existing against firmer organization was such that Newcomer "had nearly determined to leave and withdraw from the Society."

The purpose of the present publication is to make the early minutes of annual and General conferences, which are of interest and value to the entire Church, accessible, and to insure their preservation. It would have been desirable to include all minutes down to 1833, but after 1818 the minutes of the different conferences become much more extended, and the minutes of new conferences would demand a place, thus requiring an outlay of time and money beyond what are at present available. Besides, the work can now be taken up under distinct auspices and successfully carried forward.

The labor in deciphering and translating the minutes given, of thirty sessions in all, has been by no means small. Translations of a large part of the minutes had already been made, but it seemed necessary to make a new translation throughout, with a view to meeting the fullest requirements of accuracy and intelligibility. While little comment is made on the minutes, there has been a constant aim to contribute as much as possible to making the minutes a ready, full, and reliable basis for the study of the early history of the United Brethren Church. It may be stated that while these minutes were used in the preparation of the "Life of Otterbein," some of the quotations occurring in that volume were from the less literal translations already existing.

The translation here given was intended to be literal, reflecting the character and spirit of the actors and of the times, with little regard for rhetorical or grammatical propriety beyond the elements found in the minutes themselves. It is well known that while Otterbein was a thorough scholar, and Geeting and Pfrimmer had

a fair education, the large number of the early ministers had little of the advantages of the schools; but they were men of good natural powers, of deep religious experience, and well adapted to their times and the work to be done.

Two years ago the United Brethren Historical Society provided for the publishing of a volume of the minutes of early conference sessions, and in harmony with the provisions then made the present publication, reduced in extent, however, is sent forth. It is hoped that there will be special timeliness in its appearing now, in view of the proposed centennial commemoration of the meeting of the first regular annual conference in the year 1800.

A. W. DRURY.

DAYTON, OHIO, August 4, 1897.

Notes on "Minutes of the Annual and General Conferences, 1800-1818"

Some of the notes are applicable also to "Discipline of the United Brethren in Christ, 1814-1841." Some notes are likewise applicable to "History of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ," 1924, Revised 1951.

Preface, page iii--On founding the United Brethren Church in Northern Ohio, see Church History, p. [illegible].

Page 9--Notice that all before the paragraph beginning "September 25" was prefixed by the secretary, George A. Oesting, in 1815, when he recopied the minutes in the book provided for that purpose. The prefixed German title for "United Brethren in Christ" is given as "Die Vereinigte Brüderschaft Zu Christo." Below, the name is given as "Die Vereinigte Brüder-schaft Zu Christo Jesu."

For the Eastern conference the names Crum and Grider are to be given as here spelled, but for the Miami Conference those names should be given as Krum and Kreider. Christian Crum attended the Miami Conference in 1810 and 1813. For reference to Friedrich Komp see "History of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ," page 184. For "Church Members" in the secretary's preface, the German is "Gemeinde Glieder" which would mean members of the society wherever located.

Page 10, Section 2--The name "unsectarian (unsectarianism)" had come to be a name generally applied and likewise accepted. The expression, "Church (Kirche) of God," while referring to the Church General yet was suggestive and prophetic of something more developed and permanent for the organization formed.

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On pages 10, 71, 73, 74, 75, 77, 78, and 79 the name, Thomas Winter is best given as Thomas Winters.

Pages 12 and 13--The minutes of 1802 and 1803 would best be given in chronological order. The session of 1802 began October 6th.

Page 25--"Gnege's" is better given as "Knagi's". It is also otherwise given.

Page 27, item 6--This means the societies northwest of the Susquehanna River, about and beyond Washingtonboro, in which country Neidig and Grosh resided.

Page 45--For correction of headings of letters and other changes in correspondence see "Supplement" of Church History, pp. 808-822.

Pages 71-73--There was no conference in Ohio in 1811. In that year Newcomer did not come to Ohio. Change the minutes marked "August 23, 1811." to "August 23, 1812," and place them after the minutes marked "August 6, 1812." In 1812 there were two conferences, one in the Miami and the other in the Scioto Territory.

Page 85--The name "Willer" should be "Wheeler."

A. W. Drury, May, 1932.

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[illegible].

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[illegible] A. W. Drury, M.A., 1935.

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PROTOCOL

OF THE

UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST.

"SANCTIFY them through thy truth; thy word is truth." Do it, Lord Jesus, for the sake of thy suffering and death. Amen.

This book was obtained the 13th [of May,] 1812.[1]

Here now follows what the United Brotherhood in Christ Jesus from the year 1800—the *United* till 1800—have done in their annual conference, how the preachers and church members should conduct themselves.

SEPTEMBER 25, 1800, the following preachers assembled at the house of Frederick Kemp in Frederick County, Maryland:[2] William Otterbein, Martin Boehm, John Hershey, Abraham Troxel, Christian Krum, Henry Krum, George Pfrimmer, Henry Boehm, Christian Newcomer, Dietrich Aurand, Jacob Geisinger, George Adam Geeting, Adam Lehman.[3]

Each person spoke first of his own experience, and then

[1] The foregoing was recorded in the record by George Adam Geeting, who seems to have kept the minutes from 1800 to 1812 inclusive. He attended the conference in 1812, but died six weeks later. In this short interval, in which he is said to have been in fair health, he recorded the minutes, which had been preserved in a less suitable form, and appended a statement of the standing, as to ordination, of the various preachers.—EDITOR.

[2] The place was undoubtedly Peter Kemp's. See *Life of Otterbein*, p. 273.—EDITOR.

[3] And probably also Jacob Baulus.—EDITOR.

declared anew his intention with all zeal, through the help of God, to preach untrammeled by sect to the honor of God and [the good] of men.

1. Resolved that two preachers shall go to Smoke's and investigate whether D. Aurand should baptize and administer the Lord's supper.

2. Resolved that yearly a day shall be appointed when the unsectarian [*unpartheiische*] preachers shall assemble and counsel how they may conduct their office more and more according to the will of God, and according to the mind of God, that the church of God may be built up, and sinners converted, so that God in Christ may be honored.

3. The meeting was opened with prayer, then a chapter read, a short discourse delivered by Brother Otterbein, and then again closed with prayer.

SEPTEMBER 23, 1801, we again assembled at Peter Kemp's in order to counsel together and instruct one another how we might be pleasing to God and useful to our fellowmen.

The following preachers were present: William Otterbein, Martin Boehm, Christian Newcomer, Daniel Strickler, George Adam Geeting, Peter Senseny, John Neidig, David Long, Abraham Mayer, Frederick Schaffer, Jacob Geisinger, John Hershey, Thomas Winter, Ludwig Duckwald, David Snyder, Peter Kemp, Matthias Kessler, Christian Krum, Abraham Hershey, Michael Thomas.

1. After prayer, Otterbein gave a discourse. He said that salvation depends on Christ alone and his mercy, and that whoever here becomes free from sin and a party spirit has God to thank. Thus he declared his mind, and then each of the preachers spoke of his experience, and then was the following resolved.

2. A letter was read from Rev. Pfrimmer, and it was resolved to make no answer, because that seemed right to every one.

3. A letter was received from Aurand at Smoke's, and resolved to grant his desire and to notify him through Christian Newcomer.

4. To-day's session closed with song and a hearty prayer that God would bless us and make us true and faithful laborers in his vineyard. Oh, that the Lord would send upon us all his Holy Spirit, that we might proclaim with power the word of God. Amen.

1. The 24th of September, 1801, we again assembled in God's name in Peter Kemp's house; and first a chapter of the Revelation of John was read, namely, the fourteenth chapter. Then followed singing and hearty prayer that each one might be willing to preach the gospel and that he also be careful, and that he also so walk as he preaches to others.

2. The preachers were examined as to whether they are willing according to their ability to labor in the work of the Lord, through the grace of the Lord.

3. It was asked who are willing to take charge of a circuit and preach at the appointed places. Then the following preachers offered themselves: Christian Newcomer, David Snyder, Michael Thomas, Abraham Hershey, Daniel Strickler, Abraham Mayer, Frederick Schaffer, David Long, John Neidig, Peter Kemp.

4. Resolved that each preacher, after the sermon, shall hold conversation with those who would be converted, be they who they may, if they are determined from the heart to give themselves to God.

5. Resolved that the preachers shall be brief and avoid unnecessary words in preaching and in prayer; but if the Spirit of God impels, it is their duty to follow as God

directs. O God, give us wisdom and understanding to do all things according to thy will. Amen.

1. At nine o'clock we again came together. We began the session again with singing and hearty prayer that God would bless us with wisdom and understanding and with hearty love to God and one another. Amen.

2. Resolved that our preachers' meeting [conference] next year shall be October 5, 1803, at David Snyder's, and whoever of the preachers cannot come shall write to the conference.

3. Resolved that the last Sunday in August a great meeting shall be held at Sleepy Creek.[1]

4. Our present meeting was now closed; and indeed with a hearty prayer, which may the Lord out of grace grant for Jesus' sake. Amen.

MARTIN BOEHM.
WILLIAM OTTERBEIN.
GEORGE ADAM GEETING.

1. OCTOBER 5, 1803,[2] we assembled at David Snyder's, in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. The preachers present were the following: William Otterbein, Martin Boehm, Christian Newcomer, David Snyder, John Hershey, Peter Kemp, Abraham Mayer, Christopher Grosh, Christian Krum, Valentine Flugle, John Winter, Frederick Schaffer, George Adam Geeting, George Benedum.

We began the session with the reading of the second chapter of First Timothy, and then with singing some verses of a hymn, and with prayer. Thou, dear Saviour, bless our coming together to the honor of thy name and to the edification of us all. O Lord, answer us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

[1] Sections 1, 2, and 3 belong to the minutes of 1802, for October 8. — EDITOR.
[2] The minutes of 1802 and 1803 now follow in reverse order. — EDITOR.

2. Each one of the preachers spoke as to his condition, how it stood with him; and of his renewed determination in upright love with all, with earnest determination in uprightness toward one another, and bound together in love, to walk in the ways of God; to preach the gospel through the power of Jesus. Amen.

3. Resolved that Daniel Strickler and Christian Krum shall call the preachers in Virginia together and with one another determine how they should preach and rightly arrange their plan. The Lord give them wisdom and power from above.

4. October 6, at two o'clock, our session again began with the reading of a chapter and with prayer. In the forenoon there was preaching by Otterbein and Boehm.

5. The work in Maryland was considered. It was left to the preachers in Maryland themselves to arrange.

6. Resolved that Martin Boehm and Grosh place the preachers in order in Pennsylvania as may tend most to the honor of God and the benefit of the hearers and the bettering of the church of God.

7. Resolved that David Snyder and Abraham Mayer and Benedum shall make their own arrangement, how they shall serve their preaching places, as may be best for the kingdom of God. May the Lord help them. Amen.

8. It is ordered that Christian Newcomer and Henry Krum go to Christian Berger's[1] and preach the gospel in his part of the country wherever they can find an entrance to the praise of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9. Resolved that the preachers named shall give to Christian Berger authority to baptize, but nothing more at this time.

10. October 7 we began our session again with the reading of the Fourteenth Psalm, and very hearty prayer.

[1] In western Pennsylvania. — EDITOR.

11. Concerning Brother Flugle it was resolved that Brother Hershey visit his place to administer the Lord's supper.

12. There being a complaint against D. Aurand, resolved that Brother Snyder and Brother Neidig should go thither and make an investigation.

13. Resolved that our next conference again be held at David Snyder's, if the Lord will, the first Wednesday in October, 1804, and a great meeting Saturday and Sunday following. The Lord grant it his blessing.

At length it was resolved that concerning the recording of the people's names every one has the freedom to do according to his understanding, and that they love one another as brethren. Further, it was resolved that the preacher after the sermon should converse with awakened souls as in the circumstances it might seem proper.

Wm. Otterbein.
Martin Boehm.
George Adam Geeting.

Here must be inserted the minutes of the Conference of 1802. These were on a sheet by themselves. I have just now found them. I record them here now as follows:

At Cronise's, in Frederick County, [Maryland,] we, the following preachers, came together to hold counsel: William Otterbein, Martin Boehm, Christian Newcomer, John Hershey, Christopher Grosh, Abraham Troxel, Henry Krum, Michael Thomas, Dietrich Aurand, David Snyder, Peter Kemp, Matthias Kessler, George Adam Geeting.

We began our meeting with singing, then with right hearty prayer to God that the kingdom of God might come and the will of God be done on earth as in heaven. May God will to send us preachers the grace of love to love God and all men.

2. Each of the preachers spoke of his condition, how it is with him in his preaching and how his purpose is further to do in his office, to call heartily upon God for his help, and that ever he might through humility give to another higher esteem than to himself. May God give to us preachers grace that we may become very humble to the honor of God and the good of men.

3. Resolved that Valentine Flugle have a certificate from us that he is allowed to exhort and persuade the people that they be converted. The Lord give him his blessing.

4. Resolved that we write to Pfrimmer that for the present we will have nothing to do with him.

5. At the close of the session Ludwig Duckwald and William Ambrose from Sleepy Creek, Virginia, arrived.

6. October 7 the sermon began, which was preached by Otterbein and Boehm, on Hebrews 13 : 17, with great blessing. To God be all the glory for this. May the sermon never be forgotten by us preachers and all the hearers.

7. The first thing that was taken up was that John Miller with our approval shall exhort the people to incite them to good works as much as he can through God's grace.

8. It appeared that in the matter of the recording of names, twelve votes were in favor and nine against.[1] It is therefore with consent laid over for the present.

9. The preachers shall establish prayer-meetings where they preach, if it is possible.

10. It is permitted to Ludwig Duckwald to baptize and to administer the outer signs of the Lord's supper according to God's Word.

11. On the 26th of September there was a sermon preached by our Brother Otterbein, from the fourteenth verse to the end of the Epistle of Jude, and that with

[1] Of twelve votes nine were against, is doubtless the right statement.—EDITOR.

great blessing. In the afternoon our consultation was resumed.[1]

12. A proposal was made relating to the collecting of a sum of money for poor preachers. Nothing, however, was done.

13. Resolved that if a preacher does anything wrong or scandalous, the nearest preacher shall go and talk with him alone. If he refuse to hear or heed, said preacher shall take with him one or two more preachers. If he refuse to hear them, he shall be silent till the next conference.

14. Resolved that George Adam Geeting in the spring and fall shall visit the societies on Frederick Circuit.

15. Resolved that Christian Newcomer visit Cumberland Circuit twice yearly.

16. Resolved that Martin Boehm twice yearly visit the circuits in Pennsylvania beyond the Susquehanna, to ascertain the condition of things in their societies.

17. Resolved that Jacob Baulus and Valentine Baulus shall make house-visits in Middletown and Fredericktown and their vicinity.

18. Further, it is laid down as a rule [*vest gesetzt*] that when one of our superintendents [or elders, *eltesten*] dies, namely Otterbein or Martin Boehm, who now are appointed to the place [*gesetzt sind*], then shall another always be chosen in his stead. This is the wish of both, and all of the preachers present unanimously consent and are agreed that it be thus.

Now for this time is the session closed in God's name.

MARTIN BOEHM.
WILLIAM OTTERBEIN.

[1] Section 11 must belong to the minutes of 1801, the correct date being September 25. The occasion of some of the confusion in the minutes of 1801 and 1802 is found in the temporary loss of a part of the minutes, but more in the advanced age of Mr. Geeting, and the interval of twelve years from the time of the taking of the first minutes to the time when the minutes were recorded. —EDITOR.

This yet here to mention: Peter Senseny, Ludwig Duckwald, John Neidig, are authorized to baptize and administer the Lord's supper, with all belonging thereto.

October 3, 1804, the conference met at David Snyder's. Few preachers came, however, on account of the prevailing sickness and mortality. Present, Christian Newcomer, Martin Boehm, Frederick Schaffer, David Snyder, Matthias Bortsfield.

They counseled together and resolved, the Lord willing, that the next conference be held near Middletown, Maryland, on Wednesday before Whitsunday, 1805.

1. May 29, 1805, we, the following preachers, assembled at the house of Christian Newcomer.[1] Both our [superintendents] were present—Otterbein and Boehm. John Hershey, George Adam Geeting, Daniel Strickler, Frederick Schaffer, Peter Kemp, Lorenz Eberhart, George Benedum, David Snyder, Christian Krum, Frederick Duckwald, William Ambrose, Jacob Baulus, Jacob Geisinger, Christian Berger, Abraham Mayer, Christian Newcomer.

2. We began the session with hearty prayer. Otterbein gave a short address. May the Lord Jesus grant his blessing to the same. Amen.

3. The assembled preachers resolved through the grace of Jesus Christ to urge forward the work of God with more earnestness than ever before. O dear Saviour, help us, poor and unworthy, for the sake of thy suffering and death. Amen.

4. According to the confession of the preachers the grace of God was with them and their work. May the Lord bless them in their office. The Lord make each one very faithful.

[1] The conference, according to appointment and the statement in Newcomer's *Journal*, met at Jacob Baulus's, near Middletown.—Editor.

5. Pfrimmer received permission to preach among us.

6. The following preachers arrived: Ludwig Duckwald, Daniel Troyer, Jacob Dehof.

7. At eight o'clock, May 30, we again assembled. A portion from God's Word was read, followed by prayer to God in the name of Jesus, and thus the session began.

8. With the advice and consent of the preachers Newcomer determined to preach the whole year in Maryland and a part of Pennsylvania; and Christian Krum in Virginia. Resolved that each receive forty pounds yearly.[1]

9. Resolved that George Adam Geeting shall be present at the usual great meetings in Maryland and on this side of the Susquehanna in Pennsylvania.

10. It was decided by the preachers' meeting that Geeting should not take up his residence at Hagerstown, but that Hagerstown should be served by our preachers.

11. The preachers who preach where they desire, according to their inclination, shall have no compensation. When, however, they receive money, they shall bring the same to the conference, to be given to the regular preachers.

12. It is allowed in our preachers' meeting that Frederick Duckwald, of Sleepy Creek, and Christian Berger, of Westmoreland, baptize, administer the Lord's supper, and solemnize marriage.

13. The conference will be held next year at Lorenz Eberhart's, the Tuesday before Whitsunday, 1806, and that there on the Saturday following a great meeting shall begin. May the Lord be with us.

14. With this the session was brought to a close after the reading of a chapter and an exhortation that we should live to the honor of God.

WILLIAM OTTERBEIN.
MARTIN BOEHM.

[1] A pound in State currency was $2.67.—EDITOR.

MAY 21, 1806, we held our conference for this year at Lorenz Eberhart's. The following preachers were present: John Neidig, Lorenz Eberhart, Joseph Hoffman, Peter Kemp, Christian Krum, Michael Thomas, John Hershey, Christian Newcomer, Jacob Baulus, Henry Krum, George Adam Geeting. O God, make thy servants very faithful.

2. Each preacher present spoke of his condition, how he stands with God, how it goes with him in his office, and his purpose henceforth to be faithful through our Jesus Christ.

3. On the 22d of May we came together again. The question arose whether the preachers stand united in love. They all declared that they stand in hearty love, not only with one another, but also toward all men, whoever they may be.

4. Resolved that Joseph Hoffman and Christian Krum shall and will take their circuit to serve the societies for a year, if the Lord shall grant life and health.

5. Resolved that the Pennsylvania brethren shall be written to.

6. Resolved that our next annual conference shall be held in Pennsylvania, beginning the Tuesday before Whitsunday, a great meeting following on Saturday and Sunday.

7. Great meetings shall be held at the school-house on the Antietam on Whitsunday, 1807; at Lemaster's, June 15; at the Spring [Rocky Springs], June 22; at Baulus's, October 4 and 5; at Hohman's, in Virginia, September 24 and 25. The good Jesus bless his work. Amen.

GEORGE ADAM GEETING.
CHRISTIAN NEWCOMER.

1. WE held our conference May 13, 1807, at Christian Herr's in Pennsylvania. The following preachers were present: Martin Boehm, Christian Newcomer, David

Snyder, Isaac Niswander, Abraham Mayer, Christian Krum, John Neidig, Frederick Schaffer, Christian Smith, Joseph Hoffman, George Adam Geeting, David Long, Christian Hershey, Abraham Hershey.

2. The session was opened with prayer; then every one spoke of his condition; afterward Brother Martin Boehm gave a short exhortation. The fourth chapter of First John was read. Would God that he would make of us all useful instruments.

3. Resolved that Abraham [Niswander] shall visit the societies in Virginia August 7, and Smith the 9th of October; if he departs before this, then he shall be present at Krum's.

4. Huntington Circuit shall be served by David Snyder, Abraham Mayer, and John Hershey; beginning June 2, Snyder; September 2, Hershey; December 2, Abraham Mayer.

5. May 14, 1807, we again assembled at Christian Herr's. First singing, then prayer, then the reading of the twelfth chapter of Romans. Then Brother Boehm spoke in brief. Then our deliberation was renewed in God's name. May the Lord help us and grant wisdom and love and faithfulness toward God and all men.

6. Ordered that David Snyder, Abraham Mayer, Frederick Schaffer, and John Neidig shall visit four times this year the societies in Fautz' Valley.

7. It was again laid down as a rule that a married preacher shall receive per year forty pounds, and a single preacher twenty-four pounds, if he travels regularly.

8. Joseph Hoffman agreed to preach this year on the circuit traveled by Newcomer; namely, four months on this side of the Susquehanna. He shall begin on the other side of the Susquehanna River.

9. We again came together and prayed God fervently

for his blessing and help in our purpose in preaching and counseling.

10. Resolved that our conference in 1808 shall be in Virginia, at Abraham Niswander's, Wednesday before the third Sunday in May.

11. Resolved that for the present we will have nothing to do with Dietrich Aurand.

12. It was announced that Peter Senseny and Jacob Geisinger have died.

13. Resolved that Abraham Mayer and Isaac Niswander shall have full authority to baptize, administer the Lord's supper where it is necessary, and solemnize marriage. Our conference has so ordered. We testify to this.

MARTIN BOEHM.
GEORGE ADAM GEETING.

OUR yearly conference began at Abraham Niswander's, in Virginia, May 25, 1808, in the afternoon. We read the fifth chapter of First Peter. There was a short exhortation, singing, and a fervent prayer.

The following preachers were present: Christian Newcomer, Joseph Hoffman, David Snyder, Isaac Niswander, Peter Kemp, William Ambrose, Ludwig Duckwald, Christian Krum, Henry Duckwald, Abraham Mayer, Jacob Baulus, John Hershey, George Adam Geeting.

2. Every preacher declared how he stood in religion, how it was with him in his preaching, and desired that he might be able to speak according to the will of God.

3. The following preachers are willing to travel a circuit: Abraham Mayer, Christian Newcomer, John Hershey, David Snyder, Jacob Baulus, George Adam Geeting, George Hoffman.

4. Closed with singing and hearty prayer that the Lord may be praised for his goodness and faithfulness.

5. May 26, in the afternoon, the session again began with the reading of the First Psalm, prayer, and a song of praise; and the business of the yearly conference proceeded.

6. Resolved that Joseph Hoffman shall travel a year—in Virginia three months, beginning in August; the remainder of the time where we need him.

7. May 27 we again began our session. We read from the fifth chapter of Matthew, and sang, and prayed fervently to God.

8. Resolved that when Hoffman's three months in Virginia are expired, he shall travel three months the circuit in Maryland and a part of Pennsylvania, and then, if there is no other place, he shall continue to preach on this circuit.

9. Resolved that the difficulties between Brothers Strickler and Niswander lie over till the conference in W. Baltimore (?).

10. Brother David Snyder was appointed to preach to the congregation at Hagerstown two or three months.

11. We began our session in the afternoon with reading from the Word of God and fervent prayer.

12. Resolved that when any one desires to preach under our approval, he must be examined at a great meeting, and have a good testimonial. Then two of the elders shall have the right, if they find him worthy, to give him a certificate to preach one year. He must then appear at the conference and be examined. Should he not there appear, his certificate can be renewed at a great meeting.

13. May 28 we again began our session with reading from the Word of God, and singing, and prayer.

14. Resolved that the conference in 1809 shall be at Bernhardt Spangler's, in Paradise [Township], in Penn-

sylvania, the day before Ascension Day. The preachers shall strive to be there on Tuesday [preceding].

15. Strickler's case was taken up. The witnesses present testified that Strickler's conduct was not right, and because the witnesses declared there was nothing against Isaac Niswander and Christian Krum, it was resolved that Strickler should be silent in our United Brotherhood till the next conference. If he there appears and confesses his fault, he shall again be accepted as a member of the brotherhood. Or if before the conference meets he should satisfy Brother Isaac Niswander and Christian Krum, all shall be right.

16. Our conference closed for this year with fervent prayer. To the good God be hearty thanks for our love and harmony which we have with one another. To the Lamb that was slain be all honor and worship.

GEORGE ADAM GEETING.
CHRISTIAN NEWCOMER.

1. THIS the 10th of May, 1809, we preachers assembled at Christian Herr's in Lancaster County. The following preachers were present: Martin Boehm, Christian Newcomer, Abraham Mayer, Adam Riegel, Isaac Niswander, Frederick Schaffer, Christian Smith, John Hershey, Matthias Bortsfield, Joseph Hoffman, Abraham Hershey, George Benedum, George Adam Geeting, David Long, Christopher Grosh, Christian Hershey, David Snyder, John Snyder.

2. We began our session with hearty prayer and the reading of the fifth chapter of First Peter. The Lord grant us his blessing for Jesus' sake. Amen.

3. Each preacher present spoke in brief of his condition. It was encouraging. The Lord unite us in the bond of love, which is the bond of perfectness. Lord Jesus, send it to us for Jesus' sake.

4. To-day, the 11th of May, we began with the reading of the Seventy-eighth Psalm, then the singing of some verses, and then hearty prayer that the Lord help us for Christ's sake. Amen.

5. The desire of the Methodists is approved thus far—that each preacher shall have a license, because it was thus before among us; and that each preacher shall be allowed, if one of our members wishes to go to the Lord's supper with the Methodists, to give him a ticket of good standing; and if the Methodists would come with us, they also shall have a testimonial. In regard to the other articles, we must have a longer time to think. The Methodists shall have freedom to preach at all of our preaching places.

1. June 6, 1810, our preachers' meeting began at the house of John Cronise in Frederick County, Maryland. The following preachers assembled: George Adam Geeting, Christian Newcomer, Christian Krum, Isaac Niswander, Jacob Baulus, Peter Kemp, David Long, Christian Hershey, Abraham Mayer, David Snyder, Joseph Hoffman, George Hoffman, Christian Smith, Jacob Dehof, L. Eberhart, Christian Berger.

2. The session was opened with singing, prayer, and the reading of the fifth chapter of Ephesians. May the Lord impart further his blessing unto us. Amen.

3. Every preacher spoke in a childlike way of his condition, speaking uprightly in the fear of God.

4. Further, letters were read from the following persons: William Otterbein, Christopher Grosh, William Ambrose, Ludwig and Frederick Duckwald, and Frederick Schaffer; and a letter from Baltimore from some brethren concerning a union of the Methodists and the United Brethren.

5. It was resolved that Christian Krum and Isaac Niswander shall have charge of Virginia Circuit for one year.

6. Resolved that Henry Ow have permission from the conference to preach.

7. Resolved that George Hoffman shall serve the circuit in Fautz' Valley one year.

8. Resolved that Joseph Hoffman shall serve Lancaster Circuit one year.

9. This the 7th of June we began our session with reading the second chapter of First Corinthians, singing, and prayer. O God, give us thy blessing.

10. Resolved that George Hoffman shall go to Virginia as early as December 16 and serve at that place three months.

11. Resolved that all the preaching places here in Maryland and on this side of the Susquehanna in Pennsylvania shall be served by the preachers as well as they can, and that then all of the places shall be visited twice during the year by the other preachers.

12. Resolved that our conference next year shall begin on Wednesday before Ascension Day, at ten o'clock, at Joseph Gnege's, in Cumberland [County], Pennsylvania.

13. Resolved to send an answer to the Methodists at their request.

MAY 23, 1811, we began our preachers' meeting at Joseph Gnege's, in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. The following preachers were present: (1) Christopher Grosh, (2) Christian Smith, (3) George Adam Geeting, (4) Christian Newcomer, (5) Abraham Troxel, (6) Christian Krum, (7) Jacob Baulus, (8) David Snyder, (9) Matthias Kessler, (10) Joseph Hoffman, (11) Isaac Niswander, (12) Jacob Winter, (13) David Long, (14) Christian Hershey, (15)

Frederick Schaffer, (16) Joseph Jordan, (17) Henry Hiestand, (18) Michael Baer.

This session was opened with the reading of the second chapter of First Corinthians, singing, and hearty prayer. The Lord grant us his divine blessing for Jesus' sake. Amen.

2. Each preacher spoke somewhat regarding his condition, speaking uprightly in the fear of God. At this time two preachers arrived—(19) George Hoffman and (20) Peter Swartz.

3. Letters written to the conference by the following persons were read: One from Henry Muhleisten and others, of Augusta County, Virginia, one from Abraham Hiestand, of Fairfield County, Ohio, one from Jacob Winter, of Washington [County], Pennsylvania, one from George Martin, of Hagerstown.

4. Resolved that Joseph Hoffman and Henry Hiestand be appointed to travel next year in Pennsylvania and Maryland.

5. To-day we began again as usual with singing, prayer, and reading of the twelfth chapter of Isaiah. May the dear God bless us. Amen.

6. Resolved that Jacob Winter be given permission to preach, and Joseph Jordan and Michael Hershey to exhort. Lord, give them thy blessing.

7. Resolved that when a single man travels regularly he shall have eighty dollars. Resolved that Peter Swartz have permission to preach.

8. Our next yearly conference shall be at George Adam Geeting's, in Washington County, Maryland, on the Tuesday before Whitsunday.

Our session ended in blessing and brotherly harmony. God be heartily thanked therefor.

GEORGE ADAM GEETING.

May 13, 1812, we came together in our meeting-house to hold conference. Opened with singing and the reading of the fifth chapter of the First Epistle of Peter, and with prayer. The following preachers were present: Christian Newcomer, Christian Krum, George Adam Geeting, Abraham Troxel, Abraham Mayer, Joseph Hoffman, Christian Smith, Isaac Niswander, David Snyder, Valentine Baulus, Jacob Baulus, Abraham Hershey, Lorenz Eberhart, Michael Thomas, Jacob Winter, Christian Berger, Henry Hiestand, Henry Spayth, George Geeting, Martin Kreider, John Kreider, Dehof.

1. Each one spoke concerning his spiritual condition. The Lord left not himself without witness among us. The session was closed with singing and prayer. To the Lord be thanks forever. Amen.

2. May 14, 1812, we again came together. The Thirty-fourth Psalm was read, then singing and prayer. The first thing done was the fixing of the 30th of July and the 29th of October as prayer and fast days throughout the entire United Brotherhood.

3. A certificate of permission to preach was granted to John Smith.

4. Resolved that Abraham Mayer shall investigate the case of Immanuel Ow. If he finds things right, he is authorized to give him again permission to preach or to leave him where he is.

5. Resolved that only one yearly conference shall be held in the district of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia.

6. Resolved that Brother Neidig and Brother Grosh shall have charge over the Washington [Pennsylvania] United Brethren societies; namely, the territory north of the Susquehanna. They may hold small conferences when it is necessary. When they have difficulties which they

cannot settle, they shall be brought to the yearly conference.

6. Resolved that the circuit [plan] shall be maintained as long as possible. It shall be served every four weeks through traveling preachers, who shall be supported. A single preacher shall yearly receive eighty dollars, and a married preacher one hundred and sixty dollars and also expenses. They shall keep an exact account of money received.

7. Resolved that Henry Hiestand and Henry Spayth shall this year travel and preach on our circuit [in Maryland and Pennsylvania].

8. Ordered that Brother Christian Newcomer send to the brethren in the State of Ohio or visit them, and give counsel, build up, and exhort as he finds best.[1]

May 15 our session was begun with singing and prayer and the reading of the first chapter of First John.

9. Resolved that Abraham Mayer shall go to Virginia and assist in holding two great meetings.

10. The communication from the Baltimore Conference [Methodist Episcopal] through Brother Swartzwelter and Brother Griffith was read and laid before the conference.

11. Resolved that the communication be accepted, and it was unanimously resolved to maintain the unity existing between the United Brotherhood and the English Methodists according to the Word of God. May the Lord grant his blessing thereon. Amen.

12. Resolved to accept the communication [or proposition] of the Philadelphia Conference [Methodist Episcopal] and to send Brother Smith and David Snyder as messengers to the next Philadelphia Conference.

[1] This item has a stroke across it, but it is likely a part of the minutes proper.—EDITOR.

13. Resolved that the next yearly conference shall be held at Christian Herr's, in Manor Township, Lancaster County, the first Wednesday of May, 1813.

14. Resolved that Brother Christian Newcomer be given authority to hold a conference with the preachers in the Ohio district. The Lord give him grace therefor. Amen.

15. It was ordered that Abraham Mayer and Jacob Baulus shall be placed as elders to have the oversight of the district between the Potomac and Susquehanna rivers.

16. Resolved that Brother Spayth shall make a visit to Virginia in the month of November, and Brother Eberhart shall take charge of his circuit. The next time Abraham Mayer and Jacob Baulus [shall make the visit].

17. September 18 a camp-meeting shall be held if a place can be found for it.

O Lord, thou Almighty God, bless thy work. Give to all thy servants who preach among us thy Holy Spirit. Fill us all with thy pure love, and with power and with understanding to preach thy word, and lead a good, upright life, and to honor thee, O God, from the depths of our hearts. Grant it us out of thy grace, for Jesus' sake. Amen

Preachers who died this year, Peter Kemp, John Hershey, Matthias Kessler, and Martin Boehm. Kemp and Hershey died in 1811, Kessler and Boehm in 1812.

George Adam Geeting.
Christian Newcomer.

The following preachers are authorized to perform all of the services of God's house:

1. William Otterbein.
2. Martin Boehm.
3. George Adam Geeting.
4. Christian Newcomer.

5. Christian Krum.
6. John Hershey.
7. Christopher Grosh.
8. Abraham Troxel.
9. Ludwig Duckwald.
10. John Neidig.
11. David Long.
12. Abraham Hershey.
13. Christian Hershey.
14. Abraham Mayer.
15. William Ambrose.
16. Isaac Niswander.
17. Daniel Troyer.
18. George Benedum.
19. Peter Kemp.
20. Adam Riegel.
21. Frederick Schaffer.
22. Joseph Hoffman.
23. David Gingerich.
24. Christian Berger.
25. David Snyder.
26. Christian Smith.

Those not thus authorized:

Jacob Dehof.
Jacob Baulus.
George Hoffman.[1]
Hermann Ow.
Christian Berger.

Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, Manor Township, May 5, 1813. We came together at Christian Herr's to hold conference. At the opening, the reading of the third chapter of First Corinthians, the singing of a spiritual hymn, and prayer. Christopher Grosh was then elected president. The following preachers were present: (1) Christopher Grosh, (2) Christian Newcomer, (3) John Neidig, (4) Abraham Mayer, (5) Adam Riegel, (6) Christian Krum, (7) Frederick Schaffer, (8) Jacob Baulus, (9) David Snyder, (10) Christian Hershey, (11) Valentine Baulus, (12) Abraham Hershey, (13) George Geeting, (14) Michael Baer, (15) Henry Spayth, (16) Christian Smith, (17) Henry Hiestand, (18) Joseph Jordan.

2. Each preacher gave a short declaration of his condition.

3. The following persons were by the conference

[1] Here the writing of Mr. Geeting stops. Six weeks after the Conference of 1812 he died. — Editor.

examined and received as exhorters: (1) John Brown, (2) John Geisinger, (3) Charles Hassel, (4) George Kolb.

Adjourned for to-day with singing, prayer, and the benediction.

May 6 our session was opened with singing and prayer.

4. C. Newcomer was elected bishop for one year.

5. A fraternal letter from the Baltimore Conference [Methodist Episcopal], through R. Birch and J. McCann, was read before the conference, and received with great satisfaction.

6. A similar letter through Christian Newcomer and Valentine Baulus is to be sent to the next Baltimore Conference in order to maintain the bond of union between the United Brethren in Christ and the Methodist Church.

May 7, opened with reading the seventh chapter of John, singing, and prayer.

7. Resolved that Henry Hiestand shall have a certificate of permission for one year.

8. Resolved that the Confession of Faith and Evangelical Discipline of the United Brethren in Christ shall be printed.

9. The next yearly conference shall be held at Hagerstown on Wednesday before Whitsunday.

10. The circuit in Maryland shall be served every four weeks by Henry Spayth.

11. Christian Newcomer, Christian Krum, J. Hoffman, and Jacob Baulus were appointed to form a plan for a union between the United Brethren and the so-called Albright's People which shall be laid before the next conference, that if possible a union may be formed with them.

Conference adjourned with singing and prayer. The blessing of the Lord was with us. May his name be praised forever.

Who has died this year?

George Adam Geeting died June 28, 1813 [1812]. His age was seventy-one years, four months, and twenty-two days. He spent nearly forty years in the office of an evangelical preacher, which he filled with great faithfulness, and in all trials and sufferings showed himself a firm advocate of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. In short, he was, as preacher and teacher, an awakening voice to warn sleeping sinners, a comforter and guide of the weak and sorrowing, a father to all around him. He closed his course when on a journey from Baltimore to his home, on Sunday forenoon between eleven and twelve o'clock, after he had sung, along with those standing about him, the following lines:

Come, thou long expected moment,
Come, thou Spirit from on high;
'T is thy call, my Lord and Master;
How shall I express my joy,
When thy grace and power of love
Bids me rise to climes above.[1]

He breathed his last and his triumphant spirit as conqueror ascended to the victor's crown. Amen.[2]

THE yearly conference assembled at Hagerstown, Washington County, Maryland, May 24, 1814. The session was opened with the reading of the sixteenth chapter of Mark, a short address to the assembled brethren, and singing and prayer.

The following preachers were present: (1) Christian Newcomer, (2) Christian Krum, (3) John Neidig, (4) Abraham Mayer, (5) Jacob Dehof, (6) John Snyder, (7) John Baer, (8) Henry Spayth, (9) Jacob Baulus, (10) David Snyder, (11) Joseph Hoffman, (12) Isaac Niswan-

[1] Translation of Professor Degmeier followed in the above lines.—EDITOR.
[2] The secretary of the Conference of 1813 was Christian Smith.—EDITOR.

der, (13) George Geeting, (14) Christopher Grosh, (15) Christian Smith, (16) Thomas Winter, (17) Valentine Baulus, (18) Christian Berger, (19) Frederick Schaffer, (20) Hermann Ow, (21) Michael Thomas.

1. May 25 session opened with the reading of the eleventh chapter of Matthew and singing and prayer. Then several letters were read—one from the English conference held in Baltimore [Methodist Episcopal] and one from Brother Troxel and Brother Berger.

2. The preachers were examined as to how it is between them and God and as to how they succeed in their work.

3. A letter from Otterbein's congregation was received, in which they express a wish to connect themselves with the United Brethren, and that we always supply them with a preacher.

4. Resolved that John Rathfang shall have a certificate of permission to preach.

5. Resolved that H. Joseph Fry shall have a certificate of permission to preach.

6. Resolved that the first Thursday in August shall be a day of prayer throughout the whole society.

7. The 26th the session opened with reading the third chapter of Colossians and prayer.

8. Some preachers were then examined.

9. Resolved that George Kolb and John Geisinger shall have a certificate of permission to preach.

10. Resolved that Hermann Ow shall have the right to baptize, solemnize marriage, and assist in administering the Lord's supper.

11. Resolved that Henry Kumler shall have a certificate of permission to preach.

12. Resolved that Jacob Wenger shall have a certificate of permission to preach or exhort.

13. Resolved that Christian Hershey be elected presiding elder for two years over the district in his part of the country.

14. Resolved that a committee be appointed to consider the offer of the congregation in Baltimore, in regard to our supplying them with a preacher, and to come to a definite conclusion and report to the conference. The following were chosen thereon: D. Snyder, A. Mayer, J. Neidig, J. Baulus, and the bishop.

15. Resolved that Christian Newcomer again be elected bishop for three years.

16. Resolved that the next yearly conference be held the second Tuesday of May, at Henry Kumler's.

17. Resolved that John Snyder and Henry Spayth shall have a certificate of permission to baptize, solemnize marriage, and to assist in administering the Lord's supper.

18. Resolved that Joseph Hoffman shall preach one year in Baltimore, and if he and the congregation are satisfied he can remain longer, but not longer than three years.

19. Resolved that John Snyder shall preach on Hagerstown Circuit one year.

20. Resolved that Henry Spayth shall serve Rockingham Circuit one year.

21. An answer was given to the Baltimore congregation in regard to their request. Then adjourned with singing and hearty prayer. Lord Jesus, do thou be with thy servants. Make them like thy image. Give them godly zeal, untiring faithfulness. Let thy virtues flow out of them and thy divine light shine through them, that through that shining many may be enlightened, and to God we will give the glory.

CHRISTIAN NEWCOMER.
JACOB BAULUS, *Secretary.*

William Otterbein[1] was born June 4, 1726, in Europe; studied theology, and was ordained as an evangelical preacher in the Reformed Church. Soon after his acceptance as a preacher he was afflicted with a weakness of the breast, attended with hemorrhage. Physicians and friends counseled a sea voyage for his health. He then resolved to go to North America, being then about twenty-eight years of age. He was first a Reformed preacher of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, then at Fredericktown, Maryland, then at Little York, Pennsylvania. From there he was called to Baltimore, and came as preacher in this congregation May 4, 1774. Here, as in the other congregations, his labors were, through the grace of God, blessed with much fruit. His trust in God and his love for undying souls were boundless. He died, at last, in the peace of the Lord, November 17, 1813. His age was eighty-seven years, five months, and thirteen days.

BALTIMORE, May 21, 1814.

The President and Members of the United Brethren in Conference Assembled.

BELOVED BRETHREN IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST: It is already known to you that our father, William Otterbein, the faithful shepherd who so many years has served this congregation, has exchanged this earthly life for the heavenly. Immediately after his death, the vestry of this congregation assembled to consider the condition in which we were placed by the death of our beloved father. After mature consideration, the accompanying resolutions, some weeks thereafter, were drawn up by the vestry, and by them unanimously adopted. These resolutions were, on the first Monday of this year, by the vote of the elders and trustees, laid before the congregation for their acceptance or rejection, and by them almost unanimously adopted. We have therefore, dear brethren, appointed John Hildt and Benjamin Macher to make you acquainted, in the name of the congregation, with the accompanying resolutions and to obtain your

[1] Following the minutes of 1814, it is proper to give first a short account of Otterbein, as occupying a page in the record, probably written by Newcomer, Spayth, or Hildt; then the correspondence relating to the supplying of his pulpit, also found in the record in German.—EDITOR.

brotherly approval and adoption, in the hope that the one aim of the members of the conference is to build up the kingdom of Jesus Christ and to save souls from perdition. We await a favorable result from you and our messengers. They are authorized and instructed to bring about, if possible, this so much desired result. We remain your beloved and loving brethren in the Lord,

William Baker,	John Hildt,
Balzer Schaffer,	Benjamin Macher,
Jacob Smith,	Leonhart Puter,
Adam Welsh,	Peter Fowble,
Elders.	*Trustees.*

This day, January 3, 1814, the congregation assembled in the church, where the following from the vestry was laid before them for their approval or disapproval:

After the death of the deceased, William Otterbein, the elders and trustees of the Evangelical Reformed Church assembled to counsel with one another in what way the congregation in the future may best be preserved, the members of the same built up, the honor of God furthered through it. The greatest difficulty which they found was in the selection of a suitable preacher; one who, with the help and assistance of God, would carry forward the work begun by God through our deceased preacher, his faithful servant, William Otterbein, and declare the will of God pure and plain and without fear according to the Bible; in short, a preacher who does not preach for pay or money, but has on his heart more than all else the welfare and salvation of his hearers. Long before the death of our deceased father this was his greatest concern, but it pleased Divine Providence to take away this burden of his heart yet before his death, and to make evident that with him is counsel and help when one least looks for it. Through a special providence, Frederick Schaffer happened to come hither. He preached in our church, was by the deceased William Otterbein solemnly ordained to preach, and consented to serve this congregation since that time. We have reason to believe that the majority of the members are well satisfied with him, and that, with the help of the Lord, he labored among us profitably. The vestry would have no hesitancy in recommending said Frederick Schaffer as the preacher of the congregation, and expecting all else from the help and assistance of Jesus Christ, if they were not convinced that insurmountable difficulties stand in the way. In order, therefore, to avoid all difficulties and to preserve this congregation, the vestry have drawn up the following resolutions, which they herewith lay before the congregation for their approval or rejection:

First. That this congregation connect itself with the United Brethren, so that from time to time we may by them be supplied with preachers.

Second. That this congregation will provide for the support and annual salary of the preacher.

Third. That the vestry elect two members of the congregation to make the United Brethren, in their conference, acquainted with these resolutions.

After mature consideration, these resolutions were submitted to the members of the church present for acceptance or rejection. So, as the votes in the church-book to the names of those present show, the result was, thirty-five votes were cast for approval and only one for rejection. So the above resolutions were approved.

A true copy. JOHN HILDT.

THIS, the 9th day of May, 1815, the following preachers assembled at Henry Kumler's, in Franklin County, Pennsylvania, to hold conference: (1) Christian Newcomer, (2) John Neidig, (3) Abraham Mayer, (4) David Snyder, (5) John Baer, (6) John Kreider, (7) Isaac Niswander, (8) Jacob Dehof, (9) John Snyder, (10) Valentine Baulus, (11) Henry Spayth, (12) George Geeting, (13) Henry Kumler, (14) Michael Baer, (15) Henry Hiestand, (16) Jacob Baulus, (17) Henry Joseph Fry, (18) Jacob Wenger, (19) Christian Berger, (20) Joseph Hoffman, (21) Jacob Winter, (22) Jonas Witmer. May the Lord make us faithful laborers in his vineyard. Amen.

1. Conference opened with the reading of the second chapter of — Timothy; then some verses were sung, and then hearty prayer. This was repeated, so that we spent several hours thus, which God specially blessed.

2. Letters were read from various brethren, and one from the Baltimore congregation. They desire that Brother Hoffman shall further serve them.

3. Resolved that Valentine Hiskey and Peter Swartz shall have a certificate of permission to preach.

4. Resolved that Daniel Pfeifer shall have a certificate of permission to exhort.

5. Resolved that Jacob Flickinger shall have a certificate of permission to exhort.

6. Resolved that George Brown shall have a certificate of permission to exhort.

May 10 the session was opened with the reading of the third chapter of Philippians.

7. Resolved that Jacob Dehof shall have a certificate of permission to baptize, assist in administering the Lord's supper, and solemnize marriage.

8. Resolved that Samuel Huber shall have a certificate of permission to exhort.

9. Resolved that Jonas Witmer shall have a certificate of permission to preach.

10. Resolved that Samuel Brandt shall have a certificate of permission to exhort.

11. The preachers were examined.

12. It was asked who can give themselves up as traveling preachers. (1) John Snyder, (2) Henry Spayth, (3) Henry Kumler, (4) Isaac Niswander, (5) Joseph Hoffman, (6) Jacob Dehof.

13. Resolved that a prayer- and fast-day be observed August 11, 1815, throughout the whole society.

14. Resolved that in 1816 the conference be held the second Tuesday in May, at David Long's, in Fautz' Valley, in Pennsylvania.

15. Resolved that a camp-meeting shall be held August 17, at Rocky Springs. May the Lord give it his blessing.

Then the session closed with prayer. May the Lord Jesus let his abiding blessing rest upon us. This was one of the most blessed sessions that we have ever had. May the dear Jesus yet ever give us the true token that we may be able to love one another, and may he put all such as are not sincere far from us.

CHRISTIAN NEWCOMER.
JACOB BAULUS, *Secretary.*

THIS, the 7th of May, 1816, the annual conference assembled at the house of David Long in Cumberland

County, Pennsylvania. The following preachers were present: (1) Christian Newcomer, (2) Abraham Mayer, (3) John Snyder, (4) John Neidig, (5) Christian Smith, (6) Joseph Hoffman, (7) David Snyder, (8) Henry Kumler, (9) Michael Baer, (10) George Geeting, (11) Jacob Dehof, (12) David Long, (13) Abraham Hershey, (14) Hermann Ow, (15) George Hoffman, (16) Peter Swartz, (17) Jacob Baulus.

The session opened with reading the first chapter of Titus; then followed prayer by all. This God specially blessed.

In the afternoon the fifteenth chapter of John was read.

1. The preachers were examined as to how they stand before God and toward their fellow-men.

May 8 the session opened with reading the fifty-eighth chapter of Isaiah, and prayer.

2. The first thing taken up was that Henry Kumler, George Geeting, George Hoffman, and Peter Swartz were elected to elders' orders and were ordained by the laying on of hands.

3. Resolved that Jacob Flickinger and Samuel Huber shall have license to preach.

4. Resolved that William Brown shall have license to preach.

5. Resolved that a camp-meeting shall be held August 8, at Leonhart Middlekoff's, four miles from Hagerstown.

In the afternoon the session opened with reading the fourth chapter of Ephesians.

6. It was asked by the bishop who give themselves up to travel. (1) Joseph Hoffman, (2) John Snyder, (3) Henry Kumler, (4) Jacob Dehof, (5) Michael Baer.

7. Resolved that Abraham Mayer, Joseph Hoffman, and Jacob Baulus be elected presiding elders for two years.

8. Resolved that the annual conference shall be held May 15, 1817, at Geeting's Meeting-house, in Washington County, Maryland.

May 9 the session opened with reading the tenth chapter of — Corinthians, and prayer.

9. Resolved that August 2 shall be a day of prayer.

Then the session was closed with prayer. It was a blessed conference. May the Lord bestow his blessing upon each one. JACOB BAULUS, *Secretary.*

THIS, the 15th of May, 1817, the annual conference met at the Antietam, in the so-called schoolhouse, Washington County, Maryland. The following preachers were present: (1) Christian Newcomer, (2) Abraham Mayer, (3) John Neidig, (4) Christian Hershey, (5) Jacob Baulus, (6) Joseph Hoffman, (7) John Snyder, (8) Valentine Baulus, (9) Henry Spayth, (10) John Kreider, (11) Jacob Dehof, (12) Samuel Huber, (13) Michael Thomas, (14) George Geeting, (15) Isaac Niswander, (16) Jacob Winter, (17) Conrad Roth, (18) Jacob Wenger, (19) John Baer, (20) Henry Kumler, (21) Jacob Flickinger, (22) Christian Berger, (23) John Hildt, (24) George Brown, (25) William Brown, (26) David Fleck.

The session opened with reading the twelfth chapter of Romans. Then all joined in singing and prayer.

1. The letters coming to the conference were read; one from the congregation in Baltimore, another from Brother Krum, and a third from Brother Andrew Zeller.

2. Brothers Jacob Baulus and John Hildt were elected as the secretaries of the conference, and Abraham Mayer as chairman in connection with the bishop.

3. Resolved that Brothers John Hildt, Jacob Brazer, William Brown, and David Fleck shall have license to preach.

4. Resolved that Brothers John Snyder and Valentine Baulus be ordained as elders.

Then adjourned with prayer.

May 16 the session was opened with reading the fifth chapter of Matthew, and hearty singing and prayer.

The preachers were examined as to how they stood toward God and their fellow-men, and as to their conduct in general. In the course of this there streamed down, God be thanked, many gracious tears of joy.

In the afternoon the session opened with reading the third chapter of Colossians and hearty singing and prayer. The examination of preachers was continued.

Then Brothers John Kreider and Valentine Baulus were ordained as elders. God poured out upon us a great blessing.

May 17 the session opened with reading the first chapter of Philippians, and hearty singing and prayer.

Resolved that a camp-meeting be held on Brother Middlekoff's land, near Hagerstown, on Thursday, the 14th of August.

Resolved that the next annual conference be held at Brother Hershey's, in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, the first Tuesday in May, 1818.

Resolved that an account of all money received by the traveling preachers, and how it is paid out, shall in the future be kept by the presiding elders, copied into the protocol, and laid before the annual conference. Also, this account shall begin with the year 1816.

Brothers John Snyder and Henry Kumler are chosen presiding elders.

Resolved that Friday, the 1st of August, shall be kept by the United Brethren in Christ as a day of general humiliation and prayer.

JOHN HILDT, *Secretary.*

THIS, the 5th day of May, 1818, the United Brethren in Christ assembled in conference at the house of Brother Christian Hershey, in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. The following preachers were present: (1) Christian Newcomer, (2) A. Zeller, (3) C. Grosh, (4) Joseph Hoffman, (5) Abraham Mayer, (6) Henry Kumler, (7) Valentine Baulus, (8) William Brown, (9) Jacob Wenger, (10) Samuel Huber, (11) Michael Baer, (12) H. G. Spayth, (13) Jacob Lehman, (14) Christian Hershey, (15) Daniel Gingerich, (16) Joseph Jordan, (17) John Geisinger, (18) Abraham Hershey, (19) John Snyder, (20) G. Brown, (21) C. Roth, (22) D. Fleck, (23) G. Kolb, (24) Christian Smith, (25) J. Zentmeyer, (26) D. Pfeifer.

1. At the opening of the conference the fifteenth chapter of John was read, then hearty prayer for the blessing of God.

2. The preachers present were examined in respect to their spiritual condition and their office.

Closed for to-day with hearty prayer.

May 6, the fourth chapter of First Corinthians was read, and prayer for the continued blessing of God.

3. Resolved that a license to exhort be given Brother Abraham Horner, of Law Creek Valley.

4. Further, that license to exhort be given to Brother John Russel and Brother Conrad Wiest.

5. Resolved that a license to preach be given to Brother Daniel Pfeifer, of Sherman's Valley.

6. The following preachers have determined to travel this year: John Snyder, William Brown, David Fleck, Jacob Wenger, for one half year, Michael Baer, for one half year, Conrad Roth, Valentine Baulus, Henry Kumler, for one half year.

7. Resolved that the next annual conference be held at the house of Brother Valentine Doup, in Frederick County, Maryland, the first Tuesday in May.

8. Resolved that a camp-meeting shall be held at Brother Middlekoff's, near Hagerstown, commencing August 20, 1818.

9. Resolved that August 14 and the next New-Year's Day be observed as days of prayer.

10. Resolved that Conrad Roth have permission to preach one year in and around Hagerstown, with the condition that he, after harvest, go to Virginia, there to take charge of the great meetings, provided his health permits.

11. This, the 7th of May, 1818. At the last a letter from Baltimore, brought by J. Snyder, was handed over, relating to the raising of a fund to supplement the small salaries of the poor preachers who preach in the frontier or western countries under the direction of the conference. As already a beginning had been made at a conference held the 11th of June, 1816, in the State of Ohio, we have concluded to make an attempt, the Lord willing, through affording an opportunity to the people who may be willing that they give something thereto out of a free will.

12. And now is the present conference closed in peace and with hearty prayer. To the Lord be praise therefor in Christ. AMEN.

Subscribed by the writer,

CHRISTIAN NEWCOMER.[1]

[1] Only sections 11 and 12 are in Newcomer's handwriting.—EDITOR.

AN INTERCHANGE OF LETTERS OF CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE GERMAN UNITED BRETHREN AND THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, TRULY RECORDED AS FOLLOWS:[1]

To the Conference of the United Brethren.

VERY DEAR BRETHREN: We, the members of the Baltimore Conference, being deeply sensible of the great utility of union among Christian ministers and members (as far as circumstances will permit) in carrying on the work of God and promoting the interest of the Redeemer's kingdom, viewing you as friends and brethren engaged in the same glorious work with ourselves, have, after mature deliberation, thought proper to offer to you the following terms, in order to establish a closer and more permanent union among us.

1. We think it advisable for your own good and prosperity that each minister or preacher who is acknowledged by the United Brethren should receive from your conference a regular license, which may introduce them to our pulpits and privileges and prevent impositions, as there are many who profess to be in union with you that are not

[1] The letters following are given as they occur in stitched manuscript placed within the conference record. All are recorded in the English language. All except the last were published in Lawrence's History, the most of them also in Spayth's, strict exactness, however, not being observed. The last letter, which had become separated from the rest, is now published for the first time. The fragment of a letter signed by Beverly Waugh has likewise not before been printed. Some pages of the manuscript record of the letters have been lost since the letters were incorporated in Lawrence's History. The parts lost are supplied from Lawrence's History as follows: The letter signed by Christian Newcomer, dated May 25, 1811, beginning with the words "number yet among us"; the letter signed by Nicholas Snethen, dated March 26, 1812; the letter signed by Christian Newcomer, dated May 13, 1812.

acknowledged by you. And we would further advise that you favor each of our presiding elders with a list of the names of those ministers so acknowledged and licensed by you within the bounds of his district, that there may be no difficulties in admitting them to our privileges. And we would further observe that all our traveling ministers and preachers have their names printed in the minutes of our annual conferences, and our local ministers and preachers have credentials of ordination, or a written license, and we hope that you will admit none to your privileges calling themselves Methodist preachers but such as have their names on the minutes, or as are licensed as above mentioned.

2. As we have long experienced the utility of a Christian discipline to prevent immorality among our people, we would earnestly recommend to you to establish a strict discipline among you, which might be a "defence of your glory." Our Discipline is printed in your language, and we would recommend it to your consideration, to adopt it, or any part of it that you in your wisdom may think proper, or any other form that you may judge best. And that under a discipline so established you make use of every Christian and prudential means to unite your members together in societies among yourselves. By these means we think your people will become more spiritual, and your labors be much more successful under the blessing of God.

3. All those members among you who are united in such societies, or may hereafter be united, may be admitted to the privileges of class-meetings, sacraments, and love-feasts in our church, provided they have a certificate of their membership signed by a regularly licensed preacher of your church. And to prevent inconvenience, we wish you to furnish each of our preachers with a list of the names of all such members as may be in the bounds of

their respective circuits, that they may know who are your members.

In order further to establish this union, which we so much desire, we have given particular instructions to our presiding elders and preachers who have the charge of districts and circuits where the United Brethren live, to admit your preachers and members, as above specified, to our privileges, and also to leave a list of the names of your preachers and members in the bounds of their respective districts or circuits for their successors, that they may have no difficulties in knowing whom you acknowledge as preachers or members.

Thus, dear brethren, you may see that we sincerely wish to accommodate you as far as we can consistent with the discipline which binds us together as a spiritual people. We think that we have proposed to you such terms of accommodation as will meet your wishes, and if carried into operation among you, we hope and believe a door will be opened for general usefulness among and with each other. We are persuaded that the great Head of the church will smile on us and own our labors of love, and we shall be blessed in seeing our children converted to God and become useful members of that church which they may choose.

And now, dear brethren, we commend you and your charge to God, praying that the Lord may be with you, and bless you in your conference, and bless your honest labors to promote his glory and the interest of Christ's kingdom in the world.

We are, dear brethren, your sincere friends and brethren in Christ.

Signed by order and in behalf of the conference.

FRANCIS ASBURY.

WILLIAM MCKENDREE.

Brethren in Christ Jesus: At our conference held in Lancaster County, the 10th, 11th, and 12th of May, 1809, after having taken into serious consideration all those points concerning a close union between the German United Brethren and the English Methodist Episcopal Church as they have been proposed by an epistle from the late Baltimore Conference, directed unto us, as well as verbally by two of their ministers, namely, James Hunter and James Smith, it did appear the fundamental Christian doctrines as held by the two societies to be the same; and all the differences between the two, namely, to consist in some external church regulations.

Truly it is to be lamented that not only in these our days, but throughout the past centuries, by the setting up and obtruding of opinions, immense harm hath been done, yet our conference doth not mean by their animadversion to hint as any umbrage was given to [it, but] mentions it as a matter of reflection. As to the first point proposed concerning a written license to be given to our preachers, we had already come to a conclusion about the same, but yet till now there were some of us which had not received a formally written license, but shall be supplied with it now, and such as might refuse it we wish you to take the Christian liberty not to look upon them as preachers ordained of us; as we likewise shall not receive any English preacher as ordained of you except he hath a certificate of your conference. And this did appear unto us as necessary to prevent disorders as far as possible. As to what belongs to the second point, concerning a token to be given by their respective preachers, as well to the English as to the Germans, to such members as might desire to partake of the Lord's supper at the big and quarterly meetings, for the reasons mentioned above we think it proper and perfectly agreeing with that order which becometh Christians.

Concerning the third point, with respect to such as by an unchristian walk forfeit their privilege, we desire to act in uniformity with you that such shall remain deprived of Christian fellowship and communion as long as they remain impenitent and neglect to amend their ways. Thus if we continue not to do unto others what we would not wish done unto us, under the influence of grace divine we are confident that all jars shall soon be done away and our meeting-houses will open by themselves. Any further points to be considered will be deferred to our next conference. The God of peace and love, may he deign to unite us still closer in the bonds of love and union in this present time and throughout the eternal ages.

Be assured of our sincere love, as we are also confident to have a place in yours.

Signed by MARTIN BOEHM.
GEORGE ADAM GEETING.
CHRISTIAN NEWCOMER.

To the German United Brethren.

DEAR BRETHREN: We hereby acknowledge the receipt of the letter of the conference of the United Brethren bearing date of the 10th of May, 1809, and are pleased to observe that you are fully sensible of the propriety of mutual letters of recommendation, both for preachers and members of the two societies who may wish to participate in each other's privileges.

We most earnestly encourage you to persevere in so useful a determination and give it the fullest effect, as not only the two societies, but the church of Christ and the cause of God in general are interested in the detection of imposition among us.

Your determination to postpone the consideration of the subject of discipline until your next conference makes it

improper for us to resume that subject, presuming that you had sufficient reasons for so doing. We should have been highly gratified if it had been consistent with your circumstances to have given a final decision on the principles of the union which we proposed, and which we conceive is devoutly to be desired by the two societies. We are thankful to find that the spirit of Christian and brotherly love still prevails among you towards us, and do assure you that we reciprocate the affection, and hope never to do to you otherwise than we would have you do to us, and shall continue to receive with an attention suitable to their importance any communications which you may deem proper to forward to us.

Wishing you great peace in your own souls, and great harmony in your conference, and great success in your ministerial labors, we remain your brethren and fellow-laborers in the kingdom and patience of Christ.

Signed in behalf of the conference,

JOSEPH TOY, *Secretary.*[1]

ADDRESS TO THE "UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST."[2]

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN: Having received your letter, etc., etc., we finally agree with you to give the right hand of fellowship, to preach the gospel of a crucified Redeemer, and work together in spiritual peace and harmony to bring lost sinners home to God through repentance and holiness. And we further agree with you that our preaching houses of public worship shall be open to all your preachers who have license from you. Likewise, it is our earnest wish that you should open all your public preaching houses to all our preachers that have written license from us. We also inform you that we have regulations upon record to walk by, to direct our preachers to

[1] The reply of the United Brethren has not been preserved.— EDITOR.
[2] A letter written in 1810.— EDITOR.

keep class-meetings, or to form classes at any place they think proper, etc. And, lastly, we give unto you the right hand of fellowship, and assure you that we shall always, as much as in our power lies, do unto you as we wish you to do unto us.

We also crave an interest in your prayers, and assure you that it is our full desire to live in as close a connection with you as the nature of the case will admit, to bear with each other in love, and, holding the same principles and preaching the same doctrines, we will not suffer smaller things, and only the shadows of religion, to separate us from each other. NICHOLAS SNETHEN.

To Christian Newcomer.

AN ADDRESS FROM THE BALTIMORE ANNUAL CONFERENCE TO THE "UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST."

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN: We have received your affectionate letter with hearty thankfulness that the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the God of all peace and consolation, has inclined our hearts to unite in the bonds of the gospel, to walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us and given himself for us. We consider now, if we have not misunderstood you, that we are fully agreed in respect of the necessity of union and a mutual endeavor to accomplish it. We have therefore directed and instructed all our presiding elders and preachers whose business it may be, to consult with the United Brethren in their several districts and circuits about the most expedient form of carrying the proposed union into effect. To our own forms of license and certifications, etc., we presume you can have no objection, as they have been of long use among us. If you have already a fixed form, we shall cheerfully accept it, and would only advise that if you have one yet to fix upon, you may bear in mind whether it will not be proper

to be somewhat uniform in the formation of the licenses for your preachers and the certificates for your members; but should you see proper to vary in different places, our brethren are instructed to make no objections on that head, but merely to seek for information and conform to your usage accordingly. You will please, then, dear brethren, to accept from us the right hand of fellowship and our assurances that all our preaching houses shall be open to your licensed preachers, as far as our power and advice may extend (for some of our houses may be under the control of trustees), and that our sacraments, love-feasts, and class-meetings shall be open to your members who apply with such form of certification as you may judge proper, according to our proposals sent to you from the Harrisonburg Conference.

As soon as our presiding elders and preachers return to their respective districts and circuits, we shall consider this union as having commenced on our part. But we propose to keep open an intercourse between the two conferences, to improve and perfect the plan as far as experience may furnish matter of improvement.

We hope to hear from you at our next annual conference, and we invite you to exercise the fullest confidence in us in your correspondence. Having given you this invitation we take the same liberty. We hope you will not indulge for a moment a suspicion that we wish to interfere in your conference and church concerns. There will constantly, no doubt, be many in both churches not disposed to become privileged members; none of our regulations can have any effect upon such. But knowing, as we both do, the imperfections of human nature, we cannot help foreseeing that offenses will come between ministers and members of the two churches who claim privileges. Now we think that some plan ought to be agreed upon for the settlement of all such difficulties.

As nothing can now be done decisively, we beg leave to propose to you the following plan for your consideration:

First. If any preacher or member of either church claiming to be a privileged preacher or member in the other shall be accused of anything contrary to Christian prudence or Christian conduct by the church in which he may be a privileged preacher or member, the accusation shall be made to the conference or church in which he is in regular membership, who shall try and judge accordingly. But in cases of this kind, if the difficulty be not settled according to the satisfaction of the conference or church making the complaint, or bringing the accusation, his brethren shall advise and request him to desist from the use of the privileges, and to confine himself to his own proper conference or church.

Secondly. No preacher or member who shall have been excluded by one conference or church shall be received by the other.

Thirdly. As often as may be convenient a messenger shall be sent with any letter which shall be addressed from one conference to the other, with instructions to explain any difficulties.

We invited our beloved Brother Newcomer to a seat in our conference as your messenger, and he is doubly dear to us as the messenger of such joyful tidings of brotherly love from you. "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet" of all the messengers of mercy and love and peace and good will.

We have the happiness to inform you that we have enjoyed great harmony and love in our conference, and by what we can learn of the state of religion at present, we have many tokens of good and abundance of evidence that God is waiting to be gracious.

Wishing you peace and prosperity in the kingdom and

patience of our Lord Jesus Christ, we remain your affectionate brethren in the bonds of Christian fellowship.

JOSEPH TOY, *Secretary.*

March 27, 1811.

AN ADDRESS FROM THE UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST TO THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN IN CHRIST: We have received your affectionate letter bearing date of March 27, 1811, by our brothers Borg and Swertzwelder, with much joy and thankfulness, seeing therein that the God of love has united your hearts in love and harmony with us, to unite more and more together in the bonds of the gospel. We are certain, brethren, if we walk in the light as children of the light, we shall ere long be of one heart and one mind. Seeing likewise the blessed fruits of our union together in a measure already, and the glorious prospect before us, we do not hesitate a moment longer to give you the right hand of Christian fellowship again. We have now formed our members in classes, as much as possible. However, there are a number yet among us who have not yet joined with us in this privilege, so long delayed by us. We earnestly hope that you will instruct your traveling preachers to bear with such as much as the order of your church will admit. We would further inform you that we have drawn up some regulations, or discipline, among us, and shall endeavor, more and more, to put them into effect among ourselves and our members.

Any preacher or private member expelled from your church will not be received by us to the fellowship of saints in Christ, and we do hope that you will do the same in relation to those expelled by us, at least until sufficient reason be found of their repentance and good fruits.

We likewise hope that our mutual friendship and love to each other will be increased yet more and more, and that the intercourse, by letter and messengers from and to each conference, may be kept up yearly, through which medium difficulties may be readily adjusted, and more especially as such messengers or communications will be joyfully received by us and appreciated in the best possible way.

And, lastly, may the God of all peace and consolation, who has united our hearts together in the gospel, spread his militant church, by us, from pole to pole, and, finally, when time is no more, make us, one and all, members of his church triumphant, to praise God and the Lamb forever. Remember us before the throne of God, is the earnest prayer of your affectionate brethren. Wishing you peace and prosperity in the kingdom and patience of our Lord Jesus Christ, we remain your affectionate brethren in the bonds of Christian fellowship.

Signed by order and in behalf of the conference.

CHRISTIAN NEWCOMER.

May 25, 1811.

AN ADDRESS FROM THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE, ASSEMBLED AT LEESBURG, TO THE UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST.

To the Conference of the United Brethren.

Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Behold how good and pleasant a thing it is for brethren to dwell in unity. May the holy leaven leaven the whole lump. We do most cordially and sincerely join with you in praying that He who has united our hearts in the gospel may make us instrumental in assisting to spread his militant church from pole to pole, and, finally, when time is no more, make us, one and all, members of the church triumphant, to praise God and the Lamb for ever and ever.

We have the happiness to inform you that we do not recollect when we had so gracious a sitting together. "Our peace surpasseth all understanding, and our joy is unspeakable and full of glory." We taste unspeakable bliss. "The power of the Highest overshadowed us, and the glory of God is in the midst of us." Hallelujah!

We have instructed our preachers to deal very tenderly with those members of your church who have not fully come into our measures of union, as far as the rules and orders of our church will admit, hoping and trusting that you will still do all in your power to promote and extend the spirit and practice of discipline among them, it being evident that our mutual success depends upon our union, wherever our lines of labor come together.

We agree with you in the advantage of correspondence and an interchange of messengers. Brother Newcomer was received by us, and we have appointed our brothers Alfred Griffith and John Swertzwelder as messengers to your next conference, with whom you may consult on any subject relative to the desired object of a final and perfect harmony.

We remain, dear brethren, your affectionate fellow-laborers in the bonds of peace.

NICHOLAS SNETHEN.

March 26, 1812.

THE PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE TO THE CONFERENCE OF THE GERMAN UNITED BRETHREN, TO MEET AT ANTIETAM, WASHINGTON COUNTY, STATE OF MARYLAND.

The Philadelphia Conference to the United German Brethren, Greeting.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN: We have been made acquainted with the friendly correspondence that has taken

place between you and the Baltimore Conference, tending to a happy union, and being informed by your messenger, Christian Newcomer, that it is your wish to enter into a like friendly correspondence with us, we therefore hasten to inform you that we are willing most cordially to embrace you as brethren in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, and are ready to enter into the strictest union with you that the peculiar circumstances of the two societies will admit of, and have accordingly appointed two of our members, William Fox and William Foulks, to meet you at your next conference, to aid in the accomplishment of this desired object.

It was, dear brethren, the prayer of Christ, your Lord and ours, that his people might be one, and that, for the best of all purposes, that is, that they might be perfected in one. We are, dear brethren, yours in the bonds of a pure and peaceful gospel.

Signed by order and in behalf of the Philadelphia Conference at the annual meeting, in Philadelphia, 25th April, 1812. WILLIAM S. FISHER, *Secretary.*

AN ADDRESS TO THE CONFERENCE OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, ASSEMBLED IN BALTIMORE, FROM THE UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN: The members of the conference of the United Brethren assembled at George Adam Geeting's, with the greatest satisfaction mention the receipt of your address from Leesburg. Our souls have been truly refreshed, particularly when we received the news of love, uniting our kindred souls. We will adopt the language of the royal psalmist with you: "'T is good and pleasant for brethren to dwell together in unity." We do cordially and sincerely pray that Jehovah may make us individually instrumental in spreading his blessed

cause, and extending his militant church from the rivers to the ends of the earth. We rejoice with you that the power of the Lord was in your midst; our hearts also burned with love, while consulting on the welfare of Zion.

We are truly thankful for the delicacy and tenderness intimated in your letter, as touching those members of our church that may not as yet be divested of certain peculiarities. But we humbly hope that the mists will ere long, through the effulgence of gospel day, be dispersed from every mind. We have in many places succeeded in forming class-meetings and extending discipline, and, as far as prudence shall dictate, we will pursue.

An interchange of messengers and correspondence will still be deemed a favor. Brothers A. Griffith and J. Swertzwelder were thankfully received by us, with whom we had the happiness to consult on the much desired subject of permanent peace and harmony.

Brothers G. A. Geeting and C. Newcomer were instructed as messengers to you. Finally, brethren, may the God of love and peace unite our hearts and efforts in the indissoluble bonds of Jesus' love, is the prayer of your fellow-laborers in the blessed gospel of peace.

Signed in behalf and by consent of the conference.

CHRISTIAN NEWCOMER.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND, May 13, 1812.

AN ADDRESS FROM THE CONFERENCE OF THE GERMAN UNITED BRETHREN.

To the Methodist Episcopal Church, Philadelphia Conference, Greeting.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN: We received your friendly address with much pleasure. We exult to hear you are ready to enter into terms of union with us, as our brethren of the Baltimore Conference have done, and pray that it

may terminate in as happy an union, and have no doubt but it will, if you pursue the same charitable and friendly steps towards us as they have taken. We wish, dear brethren, ever to do unto you as we would be done by. May the Lord unite our hearts in love and help us to pull together in the yoke of Christ, that we may be as true yoke-fellows indeed, and may the kingdom of God our Saviour be mightily established in the earth by our united efforts. Brethren, pray for us. We have appointed our brethren Christian Smith and David Snyder as messengers to your next conference, with whom you may consult on any subject leading towards our contemplated union.

We remain, dear brethren, yours in the bonds of the peaceful gospel.

Signed by order. GEORGE A. GEETING.

May 15, 1812.

[FRAGMENT FROM THE BALTIMORE CONFERENCE.]

but hath furnished us with complete means for this great work, to wit, oracles of God, an inexhaustible fountain of truth, and the unction of the Holy Spirit of grace to enable us to perform every good word and work. Pure doctrinal truth and gospel discipline dispel darkness from the mind, and correct the errors of the heart and life, and, through the efficacy of the Spirit, perfect us in the love of God. We acknowledge the receipt of your affectionate address by our respected brethren, C. Newcomer and C. Krum, and rejoice to hear of your success in forming classes and extending discipline; the closer the union of Christians can be drawn, the more readily they yield to gospel discipline, and we still recommend a prudent perseverance in this good work, knowing from long and happy experience that your labor will not be in vain in the Lord.

We shall rejoice to embrace every opportunity of con-

sulting together openly and freely on the most proper means to promote peace and perfect harmony. In order thereto we have appointed our much respected brethren Robert Birch and James McCann as bearers of this address to your respectable body, whom we recommend to you as persons able and ready to give any information on the subject of peace and union that you may require.

Finally, brethren, we recommend you to God and the word of his grace, praying that his peace and love may unite all our souls in Christ Jesus, and that we may all see the pleasure of the Lord prospering in our hands, till they that sow and they that reap shall meet and rejoice together in the kingdom of God for ever and ever.

Signed in behalf and at the request of the Baltimore Annual Conference, held in the city of Baltimore, March 30, 1813. BEVERLY WAUGH, *Secretary.*

ADDRESS FROM THE PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH TO THE GERMAN CONFERENCE OF UNITED BRETHREN.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN: Your friendly address by your brother and ours and your messenger, Christian Smith, we received with pleasure. We beg you to be assured of our continued regard for you, and cordial desire of Christian union and communion, as far as may be consistent with the order and discipline of our respective churches. Our doctrines are fixed and established; our discipline is binding upon [us] by the authority of our General Conference, and we have long experienced and proved the great advantage of such regulations; consequently to these in our church communion and fellowship we feel ourselves bound by the most sacred obligations to have an especial regard. And might we not, brethren, recommend them to your consideration, that you may "prove

all things, and hold fast that which is good"? We have appointed our brethren William Hunter and H. Boehm to present to you this address, and to assure you that your messengers and communications will always be welcome to us. We are pleased to find, by the reports from different and distant places, and happy to be able to inform you, that our blessed Redeemer is still carrying on the work of spiritual peace and reconciliation, notwithstanding the commotions and convulsions in the world, and hope the time is not far distant in which the human race shall be united as the common workmanship of the common Creator's hands and the common purchase of the common Saviour's blood. We pray our gracious and holy Lord abundantly to bless you and incline your hearts to supplicate for us before his throne. May you be divinely assisted in all your deliberations, and see the Lord's pleasure abundantly prospering in your hands to the glory of [our] God and your God, through Jesus Christ, your Lord and ours.

Signed in behalf of the conference.

WILLIAM S. FISHER, *Secretary.*

PHILADELPHIA, 1st May, 1813.

To the Baltimore Annual Conference, to be Held in the City of Baltimore, March, 1814.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN: At this important period, while our national tranquillity is disturbed with the desolations of war, we rejoice to find that there is yet prevailing among you a growing disposition to spread the odors of our Redeemer's name among the people of the United States of America.

We received your affectionate address by the hands of your messengers, our beloved brethren, R. Birch and J. McCann, and cordially unite with you in praying that

our united efforts may be more and more successful in spreading the victorious kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. And brethren, this we believe we will not fail to accomplish if we endeavor to lay aside all national prejudices and betake ourselves to more solemn fasting, humiliation, and prayer, and in spirit, conversation, and public labor more ardently endeavor to raise up a people for the Lord God of hosts, in the midst of the earth. Mingled as our hearers and members are throughout this widely-extended country, we are the more convinced that one spiritual interest should exist among us, and lead us all on to the exercise of more powerful exertions to fill the world with the knowledge of our gracious and benevolent God.

We firmly believe with you, brethren, that pure doctrinal truth and gospel discipline dispel darkness from the mind, and correct the errors of the heart and life, and through the efficacy of the Spirit perfect us in the love of God. Endeavoring, as we are, to become united in establishing a real gospel discipline among our people, we have it in lovely contemplation soon to have printed and circulated among our members a system of rules, which, though they may appear in some respects imperfect, yet may serve for the commencement of a form of government for our people, which may in process of time be improved to such a state of perfection as may be to the benefit and happiness of future generations. But as we cannot at present inform you in this letter concerning the general form of the Discipline we contemplate publishing, the bearers of this letter to your conference, our beloved brethren Christian Newcomer and Valentine Baulus, will be fully qualified, and shall have power, to give you any information that may be necessary concerning the progress in discipline we shall have made during the labors of the present year.

Desiring to continue a friendly correspondence with you

by letter, brethren, we wish you all success in the holy labors of the gospel, hoping that we shall have an interest in your prayers and good wishes, while at the same time, we assure you, we will endeavor not to fail to pray to the God of all grace for you, and wish you all possible success in the good work of the Lord.

Signed in behalf and by order of the conference of the United Brethren in Christ held in Lancaster County, May 6, 1813. CHRISTIAN SMITH, *Secretary.*

To the United Brethren Assembled in Conference.

BELOVED BRETHREN: By this we acknowledge the receipt of your letter, by the hands of your messengers, our brethren, C. Newcomer and Baulus. We are pleased to find that our common interest actuates us in our efforts to establish a permanent union, and that so far the good resulting justifies the measure. Furthermore, we rejoice that you are progressing in the work of organization and discipline. This we are ever willing to help forward, being convinced that all real union and friendship must be founded in truth and order. To this end, brethren, we must keep in view the items specified in a former letter from this conference, as terms of union. Being thus harmonious in sentiment and interest, we think it unnecessary to continue the ceremony of annual letters, etc., believing [it] sufficient to leave the door of friendly intercourse open, that, if in the progress of time and experience anything of importance should occur, there may be a free communication. Thus impressed with the importance of cultivating brotherly love, we join with you in praying that the Divine Spirit may accompany us in our mutual endeavors to promote the general cause of truth and virtue.

Signed in behalf of the conference.

BEVERLY WAUGH, *Secretary.*

March 22, 1814.

[MINUTES OF THE FIRST AND SECOND GENERAL CONFERENCES.]

THIS, the 6th of June, 1815, the following preachers assembled for the General Conference, near Mount Pleasant, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania:[1]

1. Christian Newcomer.
2. Abraham Hiestand.
3. Andrew Zeller.
4. Daniel Troyer.
5. George Benedum.
6. Christian Krum.
7. Isaac Niswander.
8. Henry Spayth.
9. John Snyder.
10. Abraham Mayer.
11. Henry Kumler.
12. Abraham Troxel.
13. Christian Berger.
14. Jacob Baulus.

These persons were elected from the various districts to the General Conference.

Brother Abraham Hiestand was chosen to assist the bishop in the conference.

The conference was opened with the reading of the fifth chapter of First Peter, then singing, and then prayer by the most of the members.

Then proceeded to business.

There was misunderstanding and prejudice on the part of some, but this was removed in part.

A letter from Christopher Grosh, coming from their so-called conference, was read. It was evident therefrom that they had not considered the matter of which they wrote.

Brother Newcomer was accused by Bonnet that he was untruthful. The matter was investigated by three presid-

[1] The General Conference minutes of 1815 and 1817 as here given are recorded in the record of the Eastern Conference.—EDITOR.

ing elders, and it was found that there was only a misunderstanding. He was in nothing liable to accusation.

The Confession of Faith and the Discipline were considered, in some respects enlarged, some things omitted, on the whole improved, and ordered printed.

JACOB BAULUS, *Secretary.*

PROCEEDINGS of the Second General Conference, held at Mount Pleasant, Pennsylvania, June 2, 1817.

The United Brethren in Christ assembled in a general conference.

The following preachers were present:

1. C. Newcomer.
2. Andrew Zeller.
3. Abraham Mayer.
4. Joseph Hoffman.
5. John Snyder.
6. H. Kumler.
7. Jacob Dehof.
8. L. Kramer.
9. D. Mechlin.
10. H. G. Spayth.
11. C. Roth.
12. H. Ow.

1. The conference was opened with the reading of the fourth chapter of Ephesians, singing, and prayer.

2. Andrew Zeller was chosen associate chairman, and H. Spayth secretary.

3. Two letters were read, one from brethren in Washington County, Pennsylvania, and the other from brethren in New Philadelphia, Ohio. Resolved to give them a brotherly answer.

Closed for this day, with hearty prayer, till to-morrow at eight o'clock.

June 3, opened with the reading of the second chapter of Ephesians, singing, and prayer.

4. Resolved to give to Brother Abraham Forney license. To this end he was solemnly ordained to the ministerial office by Brothers C. Newcomer and A. Zeller with the laying on of hands. Further,

5. Brother C. Newcomer and Brother A. Zeller were, according to the Discipline, chosen bishops.

Adjourned at noon with prayer.

At two o'clock the thirteenth chapter of Hebrews was read, then singing and prayer, and again closed with prayer till next day.

June 4. At the opening the ninth chapter of Romans was read, then singing and prayer.

6. Resolved that the next General Conference shall be held at Dewalt Mechlin's, in Pleasant Township, Fairfield County, Ohio, beginning May 15, 1821.

7. Resolved that an annual conference shall be held in the Muskingum District, beginning June 1, 1818.

8. Resolved that three hundred Disciplines be printed in the German language, and one hundred in the English language.

The conference again closed with preaching and hearty prayer.

[MINUTES OF THE MIAMI CONFERENCE]

PROTOCOL

OF THE

UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST

OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCES HELD IN
THE STATE OF OHIO

BROUGHT TOGETHER FROM THE DAILY PROCEEDINGS AT THE
ORDER OF THE CONFERENCE

BY

JOHN GEORGE PFRIMMER

1817[1]

[1] The conference gave the direction indicated above in 1816, as shown by the minutes of that year. The minutes taken before that time had been preserved, but not recorded. Some points of merely incidental character may have been omitted by Mr. Pfrimmer, though it is to be borne in mind that many things of primary significance were not originally included in the minutes.—EDITOR.

The first conference, held August 13, in the year of the gracious birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ 1810, at Michael Kreider's, in Ross County, Ohio.

The following preachers were present: Christian Newcomer, Christian Krum, George Benedum, Abraham Hiestand, John Froshauer, Michael Kreider, Daniel Troyer, Thomas Winter, and Andrew Zeller, as full ministers [or elders]; Jacob Zeller, Ludwig Kramer, Henry Evinger, and Henry Hiestand, preachers; Frederick Klinger and John Pontius, exhorters.

At the opening of the conference the third chapter of the First Epistle of John was read, and then singing, and prayer to God for his blessing to the furthering of the kingdom of Jesus Christ.

2. The preachers made their confession of their experience of the love of God and their desire for the furthering of his kingdom.

3. We have agreed in outward observances to bear with one another, as far as is agreeable with the Word of God.

4. That we seek our salvation alone in Jesus our only Redeemer, and that alone through his meritorious blood we must become just before God.

5. When any one transgresses, he shall be dealt with according to Matthew 18 : 15-17.

August 23, 1811, a conference of the United Brethren in Christ was held in Fairfield County.

At the opening of the conference the fourth chapter

of Second Timothy was read; then singing, and prayer for the furthering of the kingdom of Jesus Christ.

The following preachers were present: Christian Newcomer, president; George Benedum, Abraham Hiestand, John Froshauer, Jacob Zeller, Frederick Klinger, Samuel Mau, Ludwig Kramer, John Pontius, John Bauser, Dewalt Mechlin, John Eckert, and Jacob Lehman.

PROCEEDINGS.

1. A hearty exhortation to the preachers by the president.

2. There was an examination of all the preachers, how it was with them, and it was found, according to their confession, that they were altogether of one mind to be evermore faithful in the work of the Lord Jesus Christ and his kingdom; then closed with hearty prayer.

The 24th, at eight o'clock, the conference was opened with the reading of the twelfth chapter of Romans by Brother Benedum, and hearty prayer.

The proceedings as follows:

1. The examination of the preachers concerning their conduct.

2. On approval of the conference, resolved that Brothers Ludwig Kramer and Jacob Zeller be received as full ministers.

3. Resolved that Brothers John Pontius, John Bauser, Dewalt Mechlin, and Jacob Lehman be authorized to preach on a text, and Brother Eckert to exhort.

4. Resolved that a circuit in this part of the country be formed, for the furthering of the kingdom of Jesus Christ. Brother Samuel Mau and Brother Jacob Lehman gave themselves with a free will for this service, and were approved by the conference.

5. In the afternoon the conference resumed its session

after the reading of the third chapter of First John by Brother Hiestand and prayer by Brother Jacob Lehman.

1. Brother George Benedum was chosen presiding elder by the conference.

2. Resolved that spiritual societies or classes be formed, and private meetings, with childlike inquiries as to the inner condition of the heart.

3. Resolved that the next annual conference shall be held near New Lancaster the last Thursday in August, 1813 [1812].

4. The conference was closed with a childlike exhortation by Brother Newcomer to all of the preachers to be faithful, with stricter fidelity and uprightness, to the Lord Jesus. Closed with a gracious season of prayer.

Subscribed by CHRISTIAN NEWCOMER.

AUGUST 6, 1812, a conference was held in Montgomery County, German Township, at Brother Andrew Zeller's.

The following preachers were present: Christian Newcomer, Andrew Zeller, Daniel Troyer, Thomas Winter, William Ambrose, Frederick Klinger, Henry Evinger, William P. Smith, Samuel Mau, full ministers; Christian Sherrer, preacher; John McNamar, Jacob Kemp, and Peter Weil, exhorters.

The conference was opened with reading of the fourth chapter of Second Corinthians by Brother Newcomer, and with song and earnest prayer to God.

PROCEEDINGS.

1. Resolved that a circuit be formed. All showed willingness to further the same.

2. Thomas Winter, Henry Evinger, and Samuel Mau gave themselves up freely to travel the circuit.

The next day, August 7, the conference assembled, and

the fifth chapter of Second Corinthians was read by Brother Mau, and then singing and prayer.

1. The preachers were examined, and they confessed love to God and union among themselves.

2. Two brethren were elected by ballot as delegates to the conference of the Methodist brethren at Chillicothe, namely, Thomas Winter and Daniel Troyer.

3. Recommended to our societies to observe the last Thursday in October as a prayer- and fast-day, and to implore the prosperity and welfare of Zion.

4. Resolved that the next annual conference shall be held the last Thursday in August near New Lancaster.

5. Andrew Zeller was elected presiding elder for two years.

6. Resolved that the form of baptism be left to those who are to be baptized.

7. Brothers Jacob Zeller, Frederick Klinger, Henry Evinger, and Samuel Mau were appointed to the full performance of the office of an evangelical preacher.

8. Christian Sherrer, William Smith, and John Evinger were accepted as preachers.

The third day, August 8, the conference was opened with the reading of the first part of the fourteenth chapter of First Corinthians by Brother Winter, and singing and prayer.

1. Peter Weil was advanced to the standing of a full minister.

2. A communication to the Methodist brethren, and another to the brethren in Kentucky, were read and approved.

3. The conference was closed with singing and prayer. The above signed in the name of the conference by

WILLIAM SMITH.

AUGUST 26, 1813, a conference of the United Brethren in Christ was held at Brother Peter Sites' in Pleasant Township, Fairfield County, Ohio.

The following preachers were assembled: Christian Newcomer, Andrew Zeller, George Benedum, Abraham Hiestand, Daniel Troyer, Thomas Winter, Henry Evinger, Ludwig Kramer, Jacob Zeller, Frederick Klinger, Dewalt Mechlin, Henry Hiestand, John Evinger, Henry Miller, William Smith, Jacob Lehman, John Pontius, and John Bauser.

Brother Christian Newcomer, president.

The conference was begun with singing and prayer that God may grant his holy presence for guidance, that everything may be done for his glory and honor and for the welfare of the Church. The third chapter of First Timothy was then read, and proceeded to business.

William Smith was chosen secretary.

A letter was read from Brother Jacob Baulus, in which he stated why he cannot be present. A letter was read from Brother John McNamar, asking permission to preach. Granted. Also a letter from Matthias Bortsfield requesting full authority as a minister. Granted.

Then the report of the traveling preachers was taken up. Thomas Winter and Henry Evinger, of Twin Creek Circuit, reported that they had in the last year formed a circuit consisting of forty-seven preaching places, with many other requests for preaching. They received salary as follows: Thomas Winter, $132.06; paid out, $5.81. Brother Evinger received $53.51; paid out, $5.18¾. This circuit is divided, and the new is made Beaver Circuit. Brother Lehman's report from New Lancaster is, received, $2.81 [$20.81 (?)].

A letter from the Albright brethren was read, asking for a union. Deferred for consideration till to-morrow.

The next thing taken into consideration was the mode of ordination and of receiving preachers. It was deplored that too little order was observed, both in the reception and

the ordination of preachers. The conference took under consideration whether it is proper to ordain preachers without the laying on of hands of the elders. Conference adjourned till to-morrow at eight o'clock.

The 27th, the conference assembled. After the reading of a chapter from Titus, singing, and prayer, the matter of writing a letter to Father Otterbein was taken up, asking him to ordain, by the laying on of hands, one or more preachers, who afterward may perform the same for others, and was agreed to.

Resolved that the next conference shall be held August 24, 1814, at Andrew Zeller's.

William Smith and Henry Miller were authorized to perform all the services of ministers. John McNamar, Christian Sherrer, and Henry Hiestand were authorized to preach. Brother Smaltz was authorized to exhort.

Afterwards a vote was taken for presiding elders, and Andrew Zeller and Abraham Hiestand were elected for one year.

After prayer adjourned till to-morrow at seven o'clock.

The 28th. After the reading of a chapter, and singing, and prayer, John Eckert was fully authorized to preach, and Philip Kramer to exhort.

The special case of Henry Hiestand was taken under consideration, inasmuch as various unfavorable reports were in circulation respecting his life as a preacher, and the conference to which he now belongs examined the matter and found that much was false. Other things Henry confessed that he was sorry for, and the conference was so far satisfied that it gave him permission to preach for one year, and after consideration the conference gave to him the right hand as a sign of love.

Brother Newcomer brought a present of $30.00, given by Matthias Kessler, of Fredericktown, which, according to his

wish, was divided out to Brothers Lehman, Troyer, and Winter. Also a collection was taken in the conference, which was divided as follows: $2.00 to Brother Zeller, $2.00 to H. Hiestand, $10.00 to Brother Newcomer for traveling expenses, and $7.81¾ each to Brothers Winter, Evinger, and Lehman. Brother Newcomer, out of the donation, gave to Lehman $20.00.

Brother Winter received $5.00 in advance; $126.25 from circuit; $10.00 present; $7.81 dividend; total, $149.06.

Brother Evinger, $48.33½ from circuit; $7.81 dividend; total, $56.14½.

Brother Lehman, $20.00 present; $10.00 present; $20.-81¼ from circuit; $7.81¼ dividend; total, $58.62½.

Resolved that two preachers, Brother Winter and Brother D. Troyer, shall preach to-day at ten o'clock.

Then it was ordered that the next conference shall be held August 23, 1814.

Then the conference closed with prayer and thanksgiving.

August 23, 1814, at Brother Andrew Zeller's, in Montgomery County, Ohio, the time and place appointed, a conference of the United Brethren in Christ was held.

The following preachers were present: Christian Newcomer, bishop; Andrew Zeller, Abraham Hiestand, George Benedum, Daniel Troyer, Henry Evinger, Henry Hiestand, Jacob Zeller, John Evinger, Jacob Lehman, Philip Kramer, John McNamar, Henry Miller, William P. Smith, Jacob Kemp.

After the reading of the twelfth chapter of Romans, singing, and prayer, the following proceedings were taken up:

1. Examination of the preachers, then adjourned with singing and prayer, till to-morrow morning at seven o'clock.

Wednesday, the 24th, assembled according to adjournment.

Brother George Benedum and Brother A. Hiestand preached very suitably to the occasion.

Resolved that when any one speaks he shall stand up and address the president.

Then the questions, according to the rules, were followed through.

Jacob Kemp was authorized to preach.

Henry Hiestand was authorized to preach and to administer the ordinances; also John McNamar and Jacob Lehman.

The present order [or discipline] of the Church was taken under consideration and protested against.[1]

It was moved and adopted that there shall be a convention, and that two members from each district shall assemble at Abraham Troxel's, in Westmoreland County. The districts were arranged as follows: First district, Baltimore; second, Hagerstown; third, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, south of the Alleghany Mountains; fourth, Pennsylvania north of the Alleghany Mountains; fifth, Muskingum; sixth, New Lancaster, Ohio; seventh, Miami; eighth, Kentucky and Indiana; ninth, Virginia. The delegates shall come together November 22; the time, however, was set forward to June, next year. This convention shall form a church-constitution for the Brethren.

Brother Winter declared that henceforth he would no longer belong to the Brotherhood, and was dismissed.

Brother John George Pfrimmer announced himself as a member of this conference and was unanimously recognized.

Brother Troyer offered to travel for a half year.

Brother Lehman offered to travel for a fourth of a year.

The next conference the Tuesday after the second Sunday in August next year.

[1] The reference is to the discipline adopted earlier in the year by the old conference. This is the second appearance of the term "Church" in the minutes, the first being in the minutes of 1813.—EDITOR.

The presiding elders were next elected. Brother Andrew Zeller and Daniel Troyer [were nominated] for the Miami District, and Brother George Benedum and Abraham Hiestand for New Lancaster District. According to the votes Andrew Zeller for Miami District and G. Benedum for New Lancaster District were elected and confirmed.

The itinerant plan was anew unanimously agreed to.

The collection of hymns for a new hymn book by T. Winter and Henry Evinger is postponed till the next General Conference.

A letter from the Methodist conference was read relating to a closer union, and an answer given which was sent through Brothers Evinger and Smith. Acknowledged our desire for a union according to the order of the gospel.

Brothers A. Hiestand and A. Zeller were appointed to settle with the traveling preachers.

Jacob Zeller proposed the formation of a new circuit, and the conference ordered him to do it.

Brother Evinger promised to do what he could in view of his weakness.

Brothers Andrew Zeller, Henry Miller, W. P. Smith, and J. McNamar agreed to travel Twin Creek Circuit.

At the close settlement was made with the traveling preachers according to their service.

The conference adjourned till next year.

CHRISTIAN NEWCOMER.

JUNE 27, 1815, a conference of the United Brethren in Christ was held at Brother Jacob Mechlin's, in Fairfield County, Ohio. At the opening the sixteenth chapter of Mark was read; then an hour was spent in singing and prayer, with blessing.

The following preachers were present: Christian Newcomer, bishop; Abraham Hiestand, assistant; John George

Pfrimmer and William P. Smith, secretaries; Andrew Zeller, George Benedum, Daniel Troyer, Christian Krum, Jacob Zeller, Henry Evinger, Ludwig Kramer, Henry Hiestand, Jacob Lehman, Dewalt Mechlin, Frederick Klinger, Henry Miller, Henry Joseph Fry, John Smaltz, John McNamar, Philip Kramer, and John Eckert,—twenty-one in all.

1. The preachers were questioned how it stood between them and God and the brethren, and they confessed anew their love toward God and the brethren.

2. A letter from Noah Wheeler was read asking to be accepted in the Brotherhood as a preacher, and the request was granted.

3. Jacob Shoemaker, through good testimonials, received permission to exhort.

4. Brothers Christian Krum, Daniel Troyer, and J. G. Pfrimmer were appointed a committee to examine the new hymn-book.

Conference adjourned for the day, to meet to-morrow at nine o'clock.

The 28th, the conference assembled at the appointed time. The third chapter of Second Timothy was read, then singing and prayer.

5. The question was considered whether it would not be well for some of the older brethren to be ordained with the laying on of hands by the bishop, so that in case of death this biblical ordination might remain with us; and a committee was appointed consisting of Brothers Christian Newcomer, Christian Krum, Abraham Hiestand, George Benedum, and Andrew Zeller. The committee were unanimous that first Christian Krum should be ordained, and that then he should assist Brother Newcomer, the bishop, in ordaining the following brethren: Abraham Hiestand, Henry Miller, Daniel Troyer, Andrew Zeller, George Benedum, William

P. Smith, and John George Pfrimmer, all of which, with song and earnest calling on God in prayer, with many tears, was sacredly done. Then Brother Abraham Hiestand gave an affectionate exhortation.

6. The elders of New Lancaster Circuit promised to care for the same.

7. The elders of Miami Circuit promised to care for the same.

8. The second Friday in August was appointed as a prayer- and fast-day, and the second Tuesday of June, 1816, for holding, on the Miami, the next conference.

Adjourned with singing and prayer.

CHRISTIAN NEWCOMER.

JUNE 10, 1816, a conference was held at Brother Andrew Zeller's, in Montgomery County, Ohio. At the opening the first chapter of Titus was read, then singing and prayer.

The following preachers were present: Christian Newcomer, bishop; John George Pfrimmer, assistant; Henry Evinger and Conrad Roth, secretaries; Andrew Zeller, George Benedum, Abraham Hiestand, Henry Miller, Daniel Troyer, John Froshauer, Henry Hiestand, Ludwig Kramer, John Smaltz, Henry Joseph Fry, Jacob Kemp, John McNamar, John Stevens, John Day, Noah Wheeler.

1. John Kemp was received as an exhorter; and also Christian Hiestand.

2. Noah Wheeler was authorized to preach on a text.

The conference closed for to-day—till to-morrow.

The 11th. The conference assembled. The Eighty-fifth Psalm was read, then singing and prayer.

Philip Sauer was received as a preacher.

Henry Pausser was examined and received as a preacher.

3. The following brethren were ordained with the laying on of hands, amidst a hearty calling on God for his blessing:

John Froshauer, Henry Hiestand, Henry Evinger, John McNamar, Conrad Roth, and Ludwig Kramer.

4. Brother William P. Smith has fallen asleep in the Lord.

5. The following brethren were elected presiding elders for the State of Ohio: Andrew Zeller and Daniel Troyer for Miami District, and George Benedum and Abraham Hiestand for New Lancaster District.

6. Resolved that the next conference shall be held the third Tuesday in June, 1817, at New Lancaster, Fairfield County.

7. The second day of August was appointed as a day of prayer.

8. The presiding elders on New Lancaster Circuit promised to care for the same.

9. 12th. A committee was appointed to settle with Henry Evinger in regard to his expenses and receipts, as also his claim for work in connection with the hymn-book, and the following was their report:

Typesetting	$30 00	
Three quires of paper	1 12½	
Expense in ordering paper, printing, and binding	3 00	
Paid for paper	216 50	
Copyright	1 00	
For eight days' traveling	8 00	
Interest	6 67½	
Postage	96½	
Paid out		$267 25½
Received from Christian Newcomer	$300 00	
Received from Jacob Baulus	100 00	
Total		$400 00
Paid to the conference	$132 74½	
By Abraham Hiestand (above)	267 25½	
		$400 00

Attested, DANIEL TROYER,
CONRAD ROTH,
GEORGE BENEDUM,
DEWALT MECHLIN,
Committee.

The conference adjourned till to-morrow.

1. The 13th. The conference assembled as per adjournment.

2. John George Pfrimmer was chosen as presiding elder over the district in Indiana and Kentucky.

3. A collection of $2.72 was taken and given to Brother Pfrimmer in order to purchase a book and record all of the proceedings of this conference.

4. A fund was begun and $44.00 collected and given over to John Zeller as treasurer.[1]

With singing, prayer, and tokens of love, the conference adjourned till next year.

HENRY EVINGER,
CONRAD ROTH,
Secretaries.

CHRISTIAN NEWCOMER, *Bishop.*

THIS, the 17th day of June, 1817, the conference of the United Brethren in Christ assembled at Widow Kramer's, on Walnut Creek, in Fairfield County, Ohio.

The following preachers were assembled: (1) Christian Newcomer and (2) Andrew Zeller, bishops; (3) John George Pfrimmer, and (4) John McNamar, secretaries; (5) George Benedum, (6) Daniel Troyer, (7) Joseph Hoffman, and (8) Ludwig Kramer, elders; (9) Jacob Lehman, (10) Henry Joseph Fry, (11) Jacob Zeller, (12) John Smaltz, (13) John Bauser, (14) Dewalt Mechlin, (15) Frederick Klinger, (16) Philip Kramer, and (17) Noah Wheeler, preachers; Jacob Shoemaker, exhorter.

At the opening of the conference the twelfth chapter of Romans was read, then singing and prayer, with blessing.

Frederick Shauer was unanimously received as a member and preacher.

[1] This was a fund for the support of poorly paid preachers.—EDITOR.

A letter was read from John Evinger. In the afternoon the brethren assembled.

A request came through J. G. Pfrimmer for a license to preach for George Armstrong, in Harrison County, Indiana, which was granted; also a like request for Abraham Bansly, in Preble County, Ohio, which was granted.

A complaint was made by J. G. Pfrimmer against J. Evinger, in Kentucky, that he does not preach, though he has a license. Thereupon, resolved that a letter shall be written to him earnestly admonishing him that unless he is more industrious the next conference will dispossess him of his office.

Jacob Kemp shall be authorized by the bishop to baptize.

The examination of the preachers began, and closed in the afternoon; there was no complaint, but general love to God and men by all, more than ever before. May God be with us.

Brother Hoffman from Baltimore gave an account of his awakening, call to the ministerial office, and his desire to build up the kingdom of God, where possible, in all the world; all which made a deep impression on all of the preachers, as a precious ointment from the sanctuary of God.

A motion was made by J. G. Pfrimmer that of all preaching places where traveling preachers preach a list shall be made in order to ascertain what can be collected for the support of needy preachers.

The conference was closed with singing and prayer till to-morrow at eight o'clock.

The conference came together the 18th, at eight o'clock. Brother Hoffman preached on the last six verses of the fourth chapter of First Timothy with power and great blessing.

Brother Andrew Zeller was ordained a bishop, and conse-

crated with the laying on of hands by Bishop Newcomer and Elders Hoffman, Benedum, and Pfrimmer, with a blessed experience of the grace of God.

The conference resolved to ordain Brother N. Willer as a deacon so that he can baptize, and, with an elder, administer the Lord's supper, and also obtain a license from the court to solemnize marriage, which was done through Bishop Newcomer.

Brothers Frederick Shauer and H. Joseph Fry were elected elders, and by Bishops Newcomer and Zeller, and Hoffman, an elder, consecrated with blessing and love.

The conference adjourned till two o'clock with singing and prayer.

The conference began with the reading of the fourth chapter of Ephesians, singing, and prayer.

Frederick Shauer, Ludwig Kramer, and Jacob Adam Lehman gave themselves as traveling preachers for Lancaster District, and Noah Wheeler and John McNamar, as much as he can, for Miami District.

The next conference shall be held on the Miami on the third Tuesday in June, 1818.

A committee consisting of Ludwig Kramer, H. J. Fry, and J. Smaltz, was appointed to settle with Brother Benedum in regard to the hymn-book ; and after settlement the conference stood indebted to Benedum the sum of $269.58\frac{1}{2}$ for books, and $12.00 for trouble and expense,—$281.58\frac{1}{2}$ in all.

In the settlement with the traveling preachers, John McNamar received from his circuit $66.30, and an addition from Christian Newcomer of $8.00. Noah Wheeler received from his circuit $30.50, and an addition from Brother Newcomer of $10.00.

Resolved that from now on the annual conference shall not adjourn before five days.

Resolved that a general day of prayer shall be observed the first Friday in August, 1817.

The conference adjourned, with singing and prayer, in the evening, at seven o'clock, in hearty brotherly love.

JOHN GEORGE PFRIMMER, *Secretary.*

THIS, the 16th day of June, 1818, a conference of the United Brethren in Christ was held at Henry Joseph Fry's, in Warren County, Ohio.

The following preachers were present: (1) Christian Newcomer and (2) Andrew Zeller, bishops; (3) George Benedum, (4) Daniel Troyer, and (5) John George Pfrimmer, presiding elders; (6) Henry Joseph Fry, (7) Henry Miller, (8) Henry Evinger, (9) John McNamar, (10) Ludwig Kramer, (11) Conrad Roth, elders; (12) Jacob Adam Lehman, (13) John Day, (14) Philip Sauer, (15) Henry Bauser, (16) John Evinger, (17) Noah Wheeler, (18) Jacob Kemp, (19) John Jacob Zeller, preachers; John Kemp, exhorter.

Bishop Newcomer opened the conference and read the twelfth chapter of Romans; then singing and prayer.

1. Two secretaries were elected, namely, Henry Evinger and John McNamar.

2. A letter was read from George Armstrong, and he was granted a printed license to continue to preach.

3. A letter was read from Frederick Shauer asking for a traveling preacher.

4. Abraham Shingledecker received license to exhort.

5. Resolved that the conference continue from 8 A.M. till 5 P.M.

6. Resolved that each day at eleven o'clock there shall be preaching—Friday for the preachers.

The conference adjourned, with singing and prayer, till eight o'clock to-morrow.

The 17th, the conference was opened by Bishop Zeller with the reading of the fourth chapter of Ephesians, singing, and prayer.

1. John McGary, after examination, was received on probation as a preacher.

2. John Jacob Zeller arrived at the conference.

3. The examination of the preachers began, and at five o'clock in the evening the conference adjourned.

The 18th, the conference was opened with the reading of the second chapter of Hebrews, singing, and prayer.

The examination was continued and concluded in peace, without any special complaint or want of charity.

2. A complaint was brought against John Jacob Zeller that he had counseled our brethren at Hacken to join the classes of the Albright people. He said, however, that he had only given them permission.

3. Resolved that the matter be investigated, and that a written report be laid before the next conference.

4. Resolved that we shall have no fellowship with the Albright preachers as to occupying houses.

5. Jacob Antrim, after examination, was received as an exhorter.

6. John Kemp was received as a preacher.

7. Jacob Lehman shall be ordained an elder.

8. Jacob Kemp and Philip Sauer shall be ordained deacons.

9. Charges were brought against Henry Hiestand.

The session closed with singing and prayer.

The 19th, the conference was opened with singing and prayer.

1. John Day was ordained a deacon.

2. Resolved that Henry Hiestand shall be excluded as a preacher from this conference until an examination and improvement of life, on account of unevangelical conduct;

and that brethren shall be appointed to examine the matter, and give him an opportunity to make his defense.

3. John Hetzler, after examination, was received as an exhorter.

4. George Benedum preached in German, and Conrad Roth in English.

5. Brother Jacob A. Lehman was ordained as an elder, and Jacob Kemp and Philip Sauer were ordained as deacons.

6. Resolved that from now on all preachers who cannot be present at the conference shall send their excuse through a letter to the conference.

7. John McNamar promised to travel after harvest till the next conference.

8. Brother Newcomer brought to the conference $25.60; Brother Zeller, $21.00.

9. Brother McNamar received from his circuit $56.00; Brother Lehman, $38.84; Brother Wheeler, $30.00.

10. The next conference shall be held in the Lancaster District, at Frederick Pontius's, in Ross County, Ohio, the third Tuesday in June, 1819.

11. Brother Lehman promised to travel in Lancaster District.

The conference adjourned with singing and prayer, and hearty brotherly love.

JOHN GEORGE PFRIMMER, *Secretary.*

[MINUTES OF MUSKINGUM CONFERENCE.]

JOURNAL OF THE CONFERENCES OF THE UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST.

THE first day of June, 1818, the preachers of the United Brethren in Christ assembled in a conference at Joseph Naftzgar's, in Harrison County, in the State of Ohio, and the following preachers were present: (1) Christian Newcomer, (2) Andrew Zeller, bishops; (3) George Pfrimmer, (4) Abraham Forney, elders; (5) Matthias Bortsfield, (6) Joseph Gundy, (7) Christian Knage, (8) Jacob Winter, (9) Jacob Lehman, (10) John Krum [preachers]; (11) Jacob Antrim, exhorter.[1]

At the opening of the conference the fifteenth chapter of John was read; then followed singing and prayer. First, the origin of the Brotherhood was spoken about, the cause of the conference, and how the name, the United Brethren in Christ, originated at the beginning. Brother Newcomer spoke of the responsibility of the preacher's office, his duty, the misery of men, and that the sinner, if he would be happy, must experience the forgiveness of his sins, and that he must know that he has peace with God. Then again singing and prayer. Brother Newcomer began with the confession of the preachers. Accusation was brought against him concerning classing in Geeting's congregation; and after an investigation it was only a misunderstanding

[1] Only six of those named were at the beginning members of the conference. John Krum was admitted in the course of the session. One of the bishops was a member of the Eastern Conference, and the other of the Miami. George Pfrimmer was a member of Miami Conference. Jacob Antrim was recognized as an exhorter, though he was later regularly received as an exhorter by the Miami Conference.

between him and Michael Kohr. Further there was no accusation against the preachers, and brotherly love prevailed; and resolved in love under the blessing of the Lord to build the kingdom of Christ.

The conference adjourned for an hour, with singing and prayer. The conference again began with the reading of the twelfth chapter of Romans; then singing and prayer. On request Jacob Winter and John Brown were ordained as elders with the laying on of hands by the two bishops, Christian Newcomer and Andrew Zeller, and Elder George Pfrimmer, with blessing.

A license was sent to Richard Lewis. Brother John Krum received a license as a preacher. The next conference will be held at Matthias Bortsfield's, in Tuscarawas County, in the State of Ohio, on the first day of June, 1819. A prayer- and fast-day was ordered before the Lancaster Conference,[1] the fourteenth day of August, and another the first of January. The conference adjourned with singing and prayer, in the blessing of the Lord and brotherly love.

JOHN GEORGE PFRIMMER, *Secretary.*

God bless the Brotherhood.

[1] The reference is probably to irregular conferences appointed or held in this territory and designed to extend their scope as far west as Lancaster. The territory about Lancaster was and continued to be within the bounds of Miami Conference. The regular division and occupation of the territory did away with these local arrangements. The Muskingum Conference included the western part of Pennsylvania and the eastern part of Ohio. The Ohio portion had not been occupied by Miami Conference. To the extent that it was not reached by representatives of the Eastern Conference, it was a voluntary field for the preachers residing in the territory.—EDITOR.

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